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Yeltsin Makes High-Level Military Appointments

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in its 22 August issue reports that President Boris Yeltsin made the following appointments, among others, in the Russian Armed Forces: Commander in Chief of Ground Forces Colonel General Vladimir Magomedovich Semenov; Commander in Chief of Strategic Missile Forces Col. Gen. Igor Dmitriyevich Sergeyev; Commander in Chief of the Navy Admiral Feliks Nikolayevich Gromov; and Commander in Chief of Air Defense Forces Col. Gen. of Aviation Viktor Alekseyevich Prudnikov. Lieutenant General Viktor Mikhaylovich Barynkin and Lt. Gen. Vitaliy Ignatyevich Bologov were appointed chiefs of the General Staff main directorates.

Russian Privatization Vouchers Set for 1 Oct

ITAR-TASS reports that the distribution of privatization vouchers to Russian citizens will begin on 1 October. According to Maksim Boyko, a spokesman for the Russian Committee for Property, "every citizen of the Federation, irrespective of his age, place of residence and employment, as well as the income level will receive a voucher with one and the same nominal value—10,000 rubles." ITAR-TASS adds that "an owner of the voucher can do whatever he pleases with it. He can buy shares of an enterprise, which is subject to privatisation. Workers of enterprises will be able to buy their shares on easy terms. One shall be able to exchange his voucher for the shares of an investment fund."

Russian Ministry Issues Statements on Iraq, Yugoslavia

ITAR-TASS reports that the Russian Foreign Ministry circulated a statement which noted that Iraq's actions "pose a serious threat to the security of a region situated in the immediate proximity of Russia's southern borders, to the security of our friends in the Persian Gulf, and to international peace and stability in general." In response to the deaths of UN peacekeeping forces servicemen in Yugoslavia, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement which said that "Russia is ready to uphold energetic, and, if necessary, tough measures to influence those who are responsible for the encroachments upon the life and safety of the servicemen of the UN troop contingents in Yugoslavia."

ITAR-TASS also reports that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium launched "a strong protest in connection with the recent events in Sarajevo," and issued a statement which notes that "the purposeful provocative shellings of servicemen from the UN peace-keeping forces are gross violation of principles and norms of the international law."

Armenia, Russia To Cooperate on Military Production

INTERFAX reports that Russia and Armenia signed "agreements on cooperation in research and production of military equipment and supplying the armed forces" in Moscow on 21 August. According to ITAR-TASS, "Russia will continue to deliver black oil and other types of fuel to Armenia irrespective of the accuracy of payments and the situation on the railways and will open a line of credit for ensuring those deliveries."

Kazahkstan, Russia Sign Military Accord

KAZTAG reports that Kazakh and Russian delegations met and discussed cooperation between the two states' armies. Agreements on the system of military service for officers and on officer training in military educational establishments were signed. "In accordance with the documents signed, the existing system is guaranteed for military service, detached duty, release into the reserve, and the provision of pensions for officers and army and naval warrant officers in accordance with the legislation of each country." It was noted that "no obstacles will be placed in the way of the transfer of these persons from the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan to the Armed Forces of Russia, and vice versa, on condition that there are grounds defined by the appropriate legislation."

Tajikistan's Procurator-General Assassinated

ITAR-TASS reports that Tajikistan's Procurator-General Nurullo Khuvaydullayev was "brutally killed" on 24 August after he and his driver were forced out of their car and shot "point blank from automatic rifles." According to investigators, attempts on his life have been made before.

Minister 'Ready for Talks' on Nuclear Testing

PM2108151192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Aug 92 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by unidentified ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent; place and date not given: "Moscow Favors Total Ban on Nuclear Explosions"]

[Text] [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Recently the U.S. Senate, hard on the heels of the House of Representatives, voted to impose a moratorium on U.S. nuclear tests until 1 July 1993. What do you think of this decision?

[Kozyrev] Russia's position on nuclear weapon tests is absolutely clear. We have always been resolute advocates of their immediate and total cessation and have declared our willingness to embark immediately on the elaboration of an international agreement on this with the participation of all states. It has long been known that there are no technical obstacles to the elaboration of an effective agreement that would at last extend the ban to unerground nuclear weapon tests. It would be a significant step forward to further limiting the nuclear armaments in the nuclear states' arsenals. Certainly, the Senate's decision opens up new possibilities of that happening and, of course, we would welcome it if the United States were to join the one-year moratorium announced by Russia in October 1991.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] It is known that France has suspended its nuclear tests until the end of the year. What will Russia do when the moratorium year is up?

[Kozyrev] The president has not made a decision yet. I believe that the logic of the development of events in this sphere does not rule out the possibility of Russia continuing to eschew nuclear tests as long as tests are not carried out in the United States.

I believe that the Russian Supreme Soviet will have something to say on this subject. It could appeal directly to the U.S. Congress to halt all nuclear tests.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What are the prospects of a resumption of the Russian-U.S. talks on nuclear tests?

[Kozyrev] We are ready for talks. If the United States is not prepared to stop nuclear tests altogether today, we propose the resumption of stage-by-stage talks on further restrictions on nuclear tests as a step on the road to halting them altogether. We believe there is a possibility of a significant limitation of the number of tests and of their yield.

To be frank, we would prefer talks on a total ban of all nuclear tests.

21 T-55 Tanks Dismantled at Lvov Plant

LD1908044492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] The first batch of 21 T-55 tanks has been dismantled and destroyed at the Lvov armored vehicle maintenance plant. These are the first steps in the reduction of Ukrainian military hardware envisaged by the treaty on conventional weapons and equipment in Europe.

Boris Tarasyuk, chairman of the Ukraine national committee for disarmament issues and deputy foreign minister, reported to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that Ukraine has ratified this treaty and was the first to start implementing it. This will help the state to build peaceful, good-neighborly relations with European countries in the atmosphere of security and trust.

Foreign Observers Present

LD2208020292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] A group of military experts from Great Britain, Germany, the United States of America, and France are following how Ukraine is fulfilling the terms of the agreement on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

I recall that the destruction of the first group of T-55 tanks has started at the Lvov armored vehicle maintenance plant.

It is the first time that we have conducted a disarmament inspection, said the French representative Christian Jougues, leader of the group of observers, and obviously we don't yet have sufficient experience, but we underwent special training before arriving in Ukraine. We can confirm that what we have seen will serve as an example and model for the skillful organization of the process of reducing arms. The method that was used at the enterprise fully complies with the terms of the agreement.

Draft CIS Charter Not Ready for Summit

LD2108185292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 21 TASS—The draft Commonwealth charter—an international legal act to envisage the equality of Commonwealth member-states, their territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes and comprehensive protection of human rights—is likely not to be submitted for initialing by foreign ministers at the soonest Minsk meeting.

It seems the document's signing will also not be included in the agenda of the Bishkek Commonwealth summit.

This is done due to the experts' failure to complete the elaboration of the draft CIS charter during the three-day meeting in Minsk. In the opinion of republican plenipotentiaries, another stage of work is needed. For instance, there is a need for comprehensive consultations on major charter aspects, including the Economic Court.

Lots of questions arise in connection with the concept of the Human Rights Commission, adviser of the Russian Foreign Ministry's CIS Department Sergey Nasinovskiy told BELINFORM. From the point of view of the Russian delegation, this body is necessary, as it will enable control over the observation of international obligations carried by Commonwealth states in the human rights sphere and help stabilize the situation in these states.

Nasinovsky stressed the Russian delegation was surprised that this noble idea has not received comprehensive understanding of Belarusian experts, for instance. There is also a number of other issues requiring coordination.

"I think, we will finally come to a mutually acceptable and coordinated variant that can be submitted for initialing by foreign ministers and, then, for signing by state heads," said the Russian official.

Russian Official on Baltic Withdrawal Talks

PM2108153892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Interview with First Deputy Foreign Minister Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev by Vasiliy Kononenko; place and date not given: "Baltic Countries Prepared To Help Provide Facilities for Russian Servicemen"]

[Text] In connection with the request submitted to the United Nations by Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to include the question of the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from their territory on the agenda of the 47th General Assembly session, IZVESTIYA asked Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russian Federation first deputy foreign minister, to comment on this situation.

[Kononenko] Fedor Vadimovich, please tell us about the objectives and results of the talks with the Baltic states and why they are dragging on.

[Shelov-Kovedyayev] First I wish to note that the recent round of talks in the Baltic region was nothing out of the ordinary in the prolonged cycle of work by our delegations. The delegations were formed back in the spring to tackle the range of problems that had arisen as a result of the "divorce" in the family of the former USSR. There is a whole package of property, political, economic, military, humanitarian, and other issues here, and moreover they are highly complex and not often met with in interstate relations.

[Kononenko] But the discussion was mainly about military matters?

[Shelov-Kovedyayev] Yes, the delegations of the Baltic states are currently giving priority to military problems. It is well known that the troops that used to belong to the USSR and then to the Joint Command and which are still in the Baltic states, are now under Russia's jurisdiction and are maintained by Russia. There are tens of thousands of officers, warrant officers, and soldiers. As you will understand, it is impossible to withdraw them overnight, and our partners are taking this fact into account, despite the calls that are heard there for this process to be pushed through without regard for the realities. As a result of the talks a mutually acceptable approach, in my view, has now emerged. It amounts to the following:

The Baltic states insistently demand the speediest possible agreement on the timetable and dates for the troops' withdrawal. In this connection I wish to say that we have a Russian leadership directive to do this by the end of 1994. This gives us only just over half the time allowed earlier. If our partners officially accept this as a starting point, all the other questions, including the formulation of a concrete schedule for the redeployment of troop units, will certainly be resolved.

[Kononenko] One hears people say: If Russia sends no new recruits to the Baltics, the officers and warrant officers will go home sooner.

[Shelov-Kovedyayev] That reasoning is unrealistic. Many of the units stationed there are "reduced-strength" [kadrirovannyye] units and consist mainly of officers and warrant officers. For them to resettle in Russia, housing and many other things must be provided. We propose to resolve as a package all the problems that have accumulated—military, economic, humanitarian, and so forth. This should not, however, be taken to mean that we will delay the process of troop withdrawal until such time as all the other questions are resolved, for instance property questions. There should be no artificial linkage here. At the same time we want to define the legal status of Russian servicemen in the Baltic states for the whole time they are there. This is extremely necessary both to ensure their rights and to prevent all kinds of incidents.

I must note the constructive stance of our partners in the talks in this sphere. Thus the Estonian side, with a view to facilitating the troop withdrawal process, is showing readiness to make materials and construction workers available to build housing for servicemen in Russia and to create joint firms and enterprises based on military facilities. Of course, we cannot rely on such help alone, because the expenses will be huge. But all the same, it would be very welcome. The Lithuanian side proposed the idea of forming an international resettlement fund to finance the construction of social facilities in the areas where the troops are to be redeployed. There is a similar understanding in Latvia. In this way the sides' positions are being worked on intensively and agreements and accords on individual problems have already been initialed. As for property disputes, a reciprocal renunciation of claims by all sides could be the optimum solution.

I would like to mention another military aspect—the fate of a number of strategic facilities on Baltic territory. I am talking about missile attack early warning stations, which are very important to Russia's security. In the event of the ill-considered elimination of these stations, the whole existing system of world security would be disrupted, leading to great complications. It is not only our military experts who consider it important to preserve them even after the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states, until new, similar facilities have been created elsewhere. We, for our part, are prepared to propose conditions for their operation that would rule out suspicion in terms of a threat to these states' national security, for instance joint duty [dezhurstvo] at the said facilities.

[Kononenko] It is no secret that Russian servicemen and their families are facing difficulties with material and technical supplies, there have been ethnic incidents, and sometimes no one will help them defend their rights. What can you tell us on this subject?

[Shelov-Kovedyayev] As far as the difficulties are concerned, they are not arising as a result of the Baltic states' actions, they stem from the grave economic situation of Russia itself. There have, of course, been incidents, and it is not easy to rule them out in the future. We hope that with the commencement of full operation of the Russian embassies in these states, the danger of clashes of this kind will be reduced. We are instructing our staffers to devote priority attention to safeguarding the rights and interests of Russian citizens on the basis of existing and future bilateral accords in this sphere as well as international norms. There are already agreed draft documents in this sphere which it would be expedient to sign in the near future. But we are not losing sight of the developing domestic political situation in the Baltic states—the upcoming elections there and the possible strengthening of the positions of radical nationalist forces.

Black Sea Commander on Oath-Taking, Deserters

LD2208205492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Rumors have been circulating that servicemen who swore an oath of allegiance to Ukraine are being dismissed.

[Begin Black Sea Fleet Commander I.V. Kasatonov recording] You know, this is just not true. Since July some officers have indeed been swearing allegiance to Ukraine. They are still serving in the Black Sea Fleet. The rumors are probably about men who simply quit and are not showing up to work, to their place of service. These men have to be treated in accordance with the law, of course, and to be excluded from the lists of those who are performing their duties. We are doing that. All the men who have taken the Ukrainian oath are continuing to serve, we have no problems at all in this respect, especially after the Dagomys and Yalta agreements. These men will continue to serve in the Ukrainian fleet; they already have a specific status, and we take an understanding line towards them. [end recording; video shows footage of Sevastopol, ships, Kasatonov speaking]

Kazakhstan-Tatarstan-Bashkortostan Communique

LD2108191192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1750 GMT 20 Aug 92

["Communique on Results of the Meeting of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Bashkortostan, and the President of the Republic of Tatarstan"—KAZTAG headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—On 19 August 1992 in the town of Uralsk there was a meeting among N. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan; M. Rakhimov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Bashkortostan; and M. Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The peoples of these republics have been linked since ancient times by traditionally fraternal relations, a common background of historical development, cultures, language, and traditions.

During the meeting there was an all-around exchange of views on ways and directions of mutually advantageous cooperation and mutual assistance.

The parties expressed their intention to develop relations on the basis of mutual respect for the sovereignty, spiritual values, and national dignity of the peoples, and observance of human rights.

The parties noted the coincidence of views on preserving the common economic space and supported the initiative of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan to intensify integration processes within the framework of the CIS. The participants expressed their aspiration for setting up favorable conditions for the development of trade and economic cooperation among enterprises, organizations, institutions, and firms.

The parties will encourage the establishment of direct cooperation among participants in economic activities, and will develop on a long-term basis production coordination and direct links for joint utilization of resources and minerals; industrial, agricultural, scientific, and technical potential; the efficient tackling of problems of reciprocal deliveries of petroleum products and grain; and the organization of the grain harvest.

The parties will encourage contacts among their peoples; develop exchanges in the fields of culture, art, education, and information; and establish direct links among educational establishments, acadamic and industrial research institutes, and organizations.

Confirming their adherence to the norms and principles that proceed from the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, and the accords between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bashkortostan, and between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan, the participants expressed readiness for regular discussions of questions of the all-around development of mutually advantageous relations. The parties expressed the need to conclude bilateral treaties and agreements.

The meeting of the leaders of Kazakhstan, Bashkortostan, and Tatarstan was held in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere. It reflected the mutual desire to develop and strengthen relations of friendship and close cooperation.

[Signed] N. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan

[Signed] M. Rakhimov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Bashkortostan

[Signed] M. Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan

Tatarstan President on Summit

OW2208002392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting between the leaders of Kazakhstan, Tatarstan and Bashkortostan held in Uralsk on August 19th will lead to the strengthening of relations between these three states and of the commonwealth as a whole, said the Tatar president, Minitmer Shamaiyev, at a Kazan press conference on Friday [21 August]. Summing up the meeting, Shamaiyev also pointed out that neither the Muslim factor nor an attempt to weaken the Russian centre must be implied by the three republics' aims towards collaboration and mutual aid. The president is of the opinion that the formation of these links would help stop industrial decline and boost the economy of the republics.

Shamaiyev verified that agreements reached in Uralsk on developing collboration between Kazakhstan and Tatarstan look forward to various joint plans and the conclusion of an all-embracing bilateral treaty for 1993.

He expressed his satisfaction with the active role taken by President Nursultan Nazarbayev in strengthening the commonwealth. Shamaiyev is of the opinion that the best means of achieving this is by signing the "Union Treaty" which was drawn up in 1991 and has now been brought up to date.

Touching on mutual relations between Tatarstan and Russia, Shamaiyev pointed out that the activisation of an agreed process and of mutual understanding between the two sides is resulting in the prospect of a bilateral treaty being signed during the current year.

Shamaiyev reported that a meeting between acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and the Tatar Prime Minister, Muhammad Sabiyrov, in Moscow on August 20th resulted in the resolution of the problem concerning the budget system with the observance of the interests of both sides without confrontation being made. Shamaiyev said that agreement has been reached on granting credit (including Western) and working capital to finance Tatar enterprises. In addition, matters relating to the realisation and duty-free export of Tatar oil have been resolved, as per the 1992 economic agreement.

Yeltsin's Envoy Churkin Meets Serbian Leader

LD2108181592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1555 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Malinov]

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Aug—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today received here Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, who arrived in Belgrade on Thursday [20 August] in the capacity of special envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Belgrade. Churkin set out Yeltsin's position on a settlement of the Yugoslav crisis and stressed his interest in the successful outcome of the international conference on the former SFRY in London.

Slobodan Milosevic voiced the hope that Russia's delegation to the London conference would come out in favor of the equitable participation of all the delegations and for decisions based on the principles of international law and justice, taking into account the facts and actual state of affairs and respect for the legitimate nature of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its bodies. Only decisions that will equally take into account the interests of all peoples living on the territory of former Yugoslavia and will guarantee them equal rights in international relations and the world community can be the basis for the restoration of confidence and a lasting peace in this part of the European continent, Slobodan Milosevic stressed.

Views Upcoming London Talks

LD2208000192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2155 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Malinov]

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Aug—"The upcoming international conference in London is the best opportunity for ending the tragic conflict on the territory of former Yugoslavia. We should be optimists as far as the result of that forum is concerned, because in the present exceptionally difficult situation we simply have no other alternative." This was stated at a news conference here on 21 August by Vitaliy Churkin, Russian deputy foreign affairs minister, who visited Belgrade as Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy. He had been received in the Yugoslav capital by Milan Panic, prime minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY); FRY President Dobrica Cosic; Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic; and in Podgorica by Momir Bulatovic, chairman of the Presidium of Montenegro.

Describing the talks that had taken place with the leaderships of Yugoslavia, Serbia, and Montenegro as exceptionally useful and constructive, V. Churkin noted that the Yugoslav side was aware of the significance of the conference and of its own responsibility for ensuring that the forum takes place in a spirit of good will. "We hope," he emphasized, "that all the positive elements that are appearing in the Yugoslav position will be strengthened and consolidated, and that the Yugoslav delegation will present these at the international conference. We also hope that in such an event this position will provoke a constructive reaction from the other sides too, which will make it possible to find a political solution for stopping the bloody conflict."

According to him, Yugoslavia's participation in the London conference will be very important. And although there is an impression that the forum's organizers have not accepted Russia's proposal to send an official invitation to the FRY, some compromise formula will probably be found which would satisfy all the participants.

A time has come for intensifying the world community's efforts aimed at stopping the tragic events in former Yugoslavia. That is precisely why, on the eve of the international forum, Russia is holding active consultations with all of its participants. Russian diplomacy's position is still at a formative stage, although its principal features have already been determined. "We have what to say in London, but now it would be too early to give details of our position. We believe that the London conference should look toward the future and seek solutions which would lead to the quickest possible end to the war. It is a forum where all constructive positions and proposals should be combined." Russia wants to be objective and unbiased in its approach to the Yugoslav crisis and will contribute toward the other sides also acting in the same spirit.

The special envoy noted that President Yeltsin maintains contacts with the leadership of Yugoslavia in a variety of ways—from exchanges of messages to visits by special envoys. During the meetings in Belgrade, the question of direct meetings which could take place between the leaders of Russia and Yugoslavia was broached, but no specific dates were mentioned. The Yugoslav side expressed its satisfaction about the fact that the Russian president had sent his special envoy to Belgrade on the eve of the London conference, V. Churkin said.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD2108164192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1234 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—The continuing hardships of the residents of Bosnia and Hercegovina, who are deprived of basic means of subsistence, make it urgent to ensure the supply of humanitarian aid using all available means, a representative of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday [21 August].

Resolution 770, passed by the Security Council on August 13 this year provides an international legal basis for using all measures that could ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Moscow receives with satisfaction Britain's intention to dispatch a military force to escort humanitarian supplies to Bosnia and Hercegovina under U.N. control. "We base ourselves on the fact that such measures, taken under U.N. control, will fit organically into the Security Council's efforts aimed at restoring international peace and security in the region, to alleviate the suffering of civilians."

Foreign Ministry Statement on UN Forces' Safety

LD2408110592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0959 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, 23 Aug [date as received] (ITAR-TASS)—"Russia is ready to uphold energetic, and, if necessary, tough measures to influence those who are responsible for the encroachments upon the life and safety of the servicemen of the UN troop contingents in Yugoslavia," stresses a statement by the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry in connection with reports on losses among servicemen of the UN peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry recalled that an alarming situation has evolved around the Ukrainian battalion in Sarajevo. Two people have died already, eight have been wounded, and war materiel has been destroyed or damaged. There also are losses among servicemen from other countries.

"Respect for the neutral status of the UN 'Blue Helmets' is a most important condition for the effective implementation of the peacekeeping operations," according to the statement by the foreign policy department of Russia. "Those who violate this principle are issuing a challenge to the United Nations and to the civilized norms accepted by world practice."

The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry thinks that "in the situation which has evolved the UN Security Council should adopt the most resolute measures in order to guarantee the safety of the personnel of the peacekeeping forces."

Foreign Ministry Supports UN Actions on Iraq

LD2208135492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1135 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, 22 Aug—A Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry statement circulated today says that Baghdad's actions pose a serious threat to the security of a region situated in the immediate proximity of Russia's southern borders, to the security of our friends in the Persian Gulf, and to international peace and stability in general.

The Russian side, the document notes, has raised the issue of the impermissibility of political games around the international community's decision with the Iraqi leadership more than once. The time of persuasion and exhortation is over. Nobody has a right to trample with impunity upon the prestige of the United Nations or to ignore the resolutions of its Security Council. The world community justly demands that Iraq should comply with these resolutions and, if need be, will use all necessary means to ensure this. In accordance with Security Council Resolution 678, Russia will support all necessary measures regarding Iraq that are meant to ensure compliance with the UN decisions on post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf.

The reports coming in from Iraq, says the statement, contain more and more evidence that the Iraqi Government continues to refuse to fulfill conscientiously and fully its obligations arising from the UN Security Council resolutions. Baghdad is waging war against its own people in the south and continues the economic blockade of Iraq's northern regions. At the same time, the UN's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people are being blocked and UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 concerning the establishment of a mechanism of compensation within the framework of a post-crisis settlement are being rejected.

Iraqi authorities refuse to cooperate with a commission set up by the UN in charge of demarcation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. Baghdad's bargaining around the inspection activities of the special UN commission in charge of Iraqi disarmament—which is assuming sabotage dimensions—is causing particular alarm. An anti-UN hysteria that at times includes open threats to the personal safety of the UN inspectors is being deliberately whipped up in the country.

Russia, Armenia Agree on Research, Armed Forces

OW2108162692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1550 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Acting Premier Yegor Gaydar told INTERFAX that two Russian-Armenian agreements on cooperation in research and production of military equipment and supplying the armed forces were signed as a result of negotiations held Friday [21 August] in Moscow with Head of the Armenian Cabinet of Ministers, Khasrov Arutyunyan.

Mr. Gaydar said the documents "build on the agreement signed by the presidents of Armenia and Russia on the status of Russian troops in Armenian territory". He emphasized that "economic questions were discussed on the intergovernmental level, but questions of general political concern were reviewed at the presidents' meeting".

In the words of Mr. Gaydar, the two sides considered "a wide range of questions in preparing the documents, including an economic and trade agreement for 1993, a property agreement, migrants' rights and banking procedures within the ruble zone". An agreement was made to sign these documents at the end of September this year.

Mr. Arutyunyan noted in an INTERFAX interview that the Armenian side "is satisfied with the results of the negotiations".

Mr. Gaydar and Mr. Arutyunyan answered negatively when an INTERFAX correspondent asked whether they had discussed the possibility of a Russian shipment of $300 million in arms to Turkey.

Government Decides No Azerbaijan Border Control

LD2208130592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 22 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Aug—Taking account of the appeal by Dagestan's Council of Ministers and the accords reached with the Azerbaijan Republic Government concerning the status of border troops and joint protection of the former USSR border, the Russian Federation Government has decided not to set up state border controls with Azerbaijan. This is stated in a Russian Federation Foreign Ministry statement issued here today.

Customs control measures will be in place along the Russian- Azerbaijani border, on the basis of mutual accord, notes the document. Recently, says the Foreign Ministry statement, a tense situation has emerged along the border between the Russian Federation and the Azerbaijani Republic and in regions adjacent to the border, reflecting the concern felt by the local population over a possibility that state border controls might be put in place between Russia and Azerbaijan.

These fears were caused by the fact that the establishment of such controls could affect the fate of hundreds of thousands of people who live in a number of rayons of the Republic of Dagestan and of the Azerbaijani Republic and disturb the existing family and other links between the population on both sides of the border.

Guards Close Border With Abkhazia

LD2008130592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1227 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—Border guards of the Novorossiysk Border Detachment today took up service duties on the Russian side of the River Psou, completely closing Russia's administrative border with Abkhazia. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press center of the Internal Troops of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs that subunits of the Russian Internal Troops had earlier served in this sector for several months.

Rutskoy, North Caucasus Delegates View Abkhazia

OW2108185392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy received a delegation of representatives of North-Caucasian governments in Moscow Friday [21 August]. INTERFAX was told that they informed the vice president of decisions made by an emergency meeting of leaders from the region's republics held in connection with the situation in Abkhazia August 20-21 in Armavir. The delegation also brought an appeal to the President of Russia and the Chairman of the Russian Parliament prepared at the meeting. The appeal emphasizes the need for an immediate political resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia and the withdrawal of troops from Abkhazian territory. The authors of the appeal state that Georgian aggression against Abkhazia is being discussed in the Northern Caucasian and voices calling for armed participation on the side of the Abkhazian people are growing ever louder. The appeal calls upon the Russian government to take up a peace-keeping mission in order to regulate the conflict and prevent the spread of civil war into the Northern Caucausus and consequently into Russia.

During the course of the meeting with the vice president several possible political and practical steps to be taken by the Russian government were discussed which could help stabilize the situation in the region.

Border Guard Killed; Afghan Violators Detained

LD2408080992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0715 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Aug—One border guard was killed on 23 August during a battle on the Pyandzh sector of the Central Asian border district. Colonel Aleksandr Suvorov, chief of the press service of the border troops of the Russian Federation, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that this occurred while a group of five violators from Afghanistan, who offered armed resistance to the border troops, were being detained. All the violaters were detained. Two light machine guns, two automatic weapons, a carbine, four pistols, 10 grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition were confiscated from the violators. The press service of the border troops of the Russian Federation said that the Pyandzh sector is the one used most often for transferring weapons from Afghanistan to Tajikistan.

Burbulis Plans State, Economic Talks in Turkey

LD2308184692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1802 GMT 23 Aug 92

[By correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 23 TASS—Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary at the Russian President, intends to conduct comprehensive negotiations on problems of state and economic cooperation during his four-days' official visit to Turkey, beginning on August 25.

Burbulis told ITAR-TASS that the visit is timed for the 500th anniversary of the beginning of interstate relations between Russia and Turkey, which falls due in August.

"The visit will inaugurate a programme to last over many months which is to impart specific and mutually-advantageous contents to this historic date.

Burbulis said that the Russian delegation to the forthcoming negotiations in Turkey intends to adjust present-day possibilities connected with credits and define prospects for the participation of Turkish business in Russian programmes, above all by investments. "We shall be seriously analysing the state of partnership in the area of the supply of Russian gas to Turkey and we expect much from the discussion of cooperation problems in the area of transport", Burbulis said.

The state secretary also expressed the hope that specific contacts will be imparted to Russian ties with Turkey in the areas of education and culture.

Burbulis said that his visit to Turkey will be a stage in the preparation of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Turkey. Agreement about the visit has already been reached.

On the whole, Burbulis spoke positively of the present level of Russo-Turkish relations and intensity of interstate contacts.

Asked about the existing concern in Turkey over conflicts in the territory of the CIS adjoining the Black Sea region, specifically in Abkhazia and Karabakh, Burbulis said that Russia is for the inviolability of the existing frontiers of CIS countries. "The Russian president believes everything should be done to preclude military conflicts wherever they are held, whatever the positions of the parties involved in them. The president believes that the negotiating process should be ensured, just as the status of some or other territories involved in the conflict, that would preclude conflicts in future", the state secretary said. He added that Russia cannot tolerate that these conflicts be accompanied by demands to revise frontiers or change territorial parameters of states. Burbulis said that this stand is not only of Russia but also of the CIS countries, since the principle of inviolability of frontiers is the basic principle of the founding documents of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Russia Confirms Rocket Engine Deal With India

LD2308193992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] Russia has confirmed its pledge to supply India with two cryogenic rocket engines in 1995. This is stated in a report from the Indian Space Commission, published in Delhi. As is known, in May the U.S. Administration brought in limited trade sanctions against the Indian Space Research Organization and Russia's Glavkosmos, which had struck the rocket deal. The United States is of the view that the deal runs counter to the international system of controlling the proliferation of rocket technology. Russia and India deny this.

Butrus-Ghali Views Upcoming Talks With Yeltsin

LD2208201192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1915 GMT 22 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations August 22 TASS—U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali considers his forthcoming talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow in early September as an event of utmost importance.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Butrus-Ghali said Russia plays an important role as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and should continue efforts to strengthen the United Nations Organisation and promote its new role in world politics.

Butrus-Ghali said he will seek to find out Yeltsin's opinion on the role the U.N. could play with regards to the CIS states. He added that the U.N. plans to open representations in several CIS states which recently acquired U.N. membership to provide technical assistance to them and gather information about the situation in these republics.

Butrus-Ghali said the U.N. will also send observers to Armenia and Azerbaijan. The United Nations Organisation plans to hold a human rights conference in 1993, a world conference on women in 1995 and other events, including celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the U.N. in 1995.

Butrus-Ghali stressed that despite current difficulties, Russia should continue to play a leading role in the international arena.

"I will listen to the point of view of President Yeltsin on the 'Agenda for Peace' report which I have prepared" in accordance with the U.N. Security Council decision of January 31, 1992, Butrus-Ghali said.

The U.N. chief stressed the need to learn to prevent conflicts at the earliest possible stage. He believes most conflicts on the planet are caused by people's despair before economic problems and social injustice.

Sweden Protests 'Bugs' in St. Petersburg Consulate

PM2108175292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Aug 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Listening Devices Found in Swedish Consulate General"]

[Excerpt] REUTER has reported that the Swedish Government has sent a protest to the Russian Government in connection with the fact that listening devices were found in the Swedish Consulate General building in St. Petersburg.

Stockholm believes that the "bugs" could not have been installed in the first place without the knowledge of the former Soviet authorities, and in the Swedish Foreign Ministry's opinion, Russia, as the legal successor state to the USSR, cannot evade responsibility. The Swedish Government, REUTER writes, believes that Moscow should now cooperate openly with the Swedish authorities to ensure that all listening equipment is removed from Swedish missions in Russia. Especially since, as journalists were told in Stockholm, similar devices were found in the Swedish Embassy in Moscow on two previous occasions.

Our correspondent contacted Russian Federation Foreign Ministry representatives, who stated: They know "through informal channels" of the existence of an official protest by the Swedish Government. But our diplomatic services in Moscow do not yet have the actual text of the document. They know nothing about any listening devices found in the Swedish Embassy building earlier.

The political section of the Swedish Embassy in Moscow diplomatically refrained from commenting, and advised us in future to go directly to the Foreign Ministry in Stockholm for information. The Swedes would not say anything about the "bugs" that were supposedly found in their building earlier. At the very least, the impression arises that no such things were ever found there.

At the Russian Security Ministry directorate for Leningrad Oblast, IZVESTIYA was told: "Nobody has made any protest to our service." And an anonymous staffer, wanting to know what had happened, asked us to read him the text of the REUTER report over the phone. [passage omitted]

Israel's Peres on Russian Near East Diplomacy

OW2108162192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1550 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Isreali Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that current Russian-American relations are a serious contribution to efforts towards regulating conflict in the Near East, and that Russian diplomacy, posessing considerable experience in the Arab world, would help bring peace to the region. The Isreali Minister is in Russia on an official visit.

At a press-conference in Moscow Friday [21 August], Mr. Peres called the acheivement of peace in the Near East and the formation of a new structure of relations with its neighbor countries the main priorities of the new Isreali government. He said that during the Moscow talks Isreal had expressed its concern over Russian arms shipments to certian near-eastern countries, and he emphasized that he hopes they will cease.

In the words of Mr. Peres, the new policies of the Isreali government "will set the human element, and not the territorial, at the head of the table". Rather than spending collosal sums on expanding its territory and creating settlements in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Isreal will use these funds to improve the situation of immigrants and resolve its unemployment problems.

Answering an Interfax question on prospects for European immigration from Russia and countries of the former Soviet Union, he said that "Russia will always be a great state, and Isreal will be a small country which needs many citizens preserve the culture and language of its historic homeland".

Aide Visits Tokyo To Prepare Yeltsin's Visit

LD2208083192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 22 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo August 22 TASS—The preparation of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan is the principal aim of a trip to Tokyo by Yuriy Petrov, chief of the Russian president's administration, who arrived by an Aeroflot plane here today.

While in Tokyo, Petrov will meet with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and other representatives of the Japanese Government, leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the parliament, and the business community.

"Very much importance is being attached, both back at home and here to President Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan from September 13 to 16," Petrov told ITAR-TASS.

"Therefore it is essential to work out all issues that worry or still remain unresolved on both our and Japanese sides. Our advance party is here now to coordinate technical details. My job is add organisational, technical and political substance to the visit and to activities within the framework of the visit. There is very little time allotted for the visit and very much must be done", Petrov said.

According to the press, the Japanese Government attaches very much importance to the visit of Petrov, who, as the newspaper Nihon Keizai notes, is referred to as a person closest to President Yeltsin in his immediate entourage.

On August 26 Petrov will leave by air for Seoul where Yeltsin himself will arrive in September after visiting Japan.

Japan To Help Convert Far East Shipyards

LD2308165692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0533 GMT 23 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo August 23 TASS—The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry has decided to render assistance to Russia with the participation of both the government and private business circles in the conversion of its far eastern shipyards, so that they will turn out merchant vessels instead of warships. The ministry will set forth its ideas on the subject during the forthcoming visit of President Yeltsin in mid-September, the leading Japanese economic newspaper NIHON KEIZAI wrote today.

The ministry together with major Japanese shipbuilding corporations will decide this autumn what specific shipyard will receive this assistance, which will include the transfer of shipbuilding technology and the management know-how.

A final choice will be made right on the spot by a research group, which will include ministry officials and representatives of Ishikawazima-Harima Dzukoigo, Kawasaki Dzukoigo, Mitsubishi Dzukoigo and other major Japanese companies. Later, when the work gets started, Japanese companies intend to place orders with that shipyard for some intermediary ship repair operations, using it as a subcontractor.

Zimbabwe Declines To Purchase MiG-29's

LD2308161592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1445 GMT 23 Aug 92

["Novosti" newscast report by Mikhail Osokin]

[Text] Zimbabwean officials have decided not to proceed with the purchase of MiG-29 aircraft from Russia. The reduced level of tension in the region is cited as the official explanation for not purchasing the aircraft. Some observers link the unexpected move to the recent incident in Moscow in which a Zimbabwean student was killed in an encounter with the police.

Finland Signs Decree on Agreements With Russia

LD2108214792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Prisyazhnyy]

[Text] Helsinki, 21 Aug—Finnish President Mauno Koivisto today signed a decree on the coming into force of the Russo-Finnish agreements on cooperation in the fields of culture, education, and scientific research activity, and also on the immortalization of the memory of Russian and Finnish soldiers and officers who fell in the wars of 1939-40 and 1941-44. These agreements were concluded during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Finland in July.

On the basis of the first document, the sides pledge to promote development of direct contacts between institutions of culture, science, and education, and encourage contacts between their citizens, their interest in each other's science and culture. The sides will also support the cultural ties with Finland of Russia's population which is related to the Finns and help emigres from Russia preserve their cultural heritage in Finland.

The second agreement envisages cooperation in resolving problems connected with the finding, recording, and maintaining of Russian military burial grounds in Finland and Finnish ones in Russia, and also with the care of them, with the removal of the remains located in these burial grounds, with the work of searching for soldiers' graves, and with the placing of them in order. Each of the sides to the agreement pledges to ensure at its own expense and on its own territory the maintenance of the burial grounds and monuments to servicemen of the other side and care of them. Finland and Russia also agreed to provide the relatives of the fallen servicemen with the opportunity to visit these burial grounds.

General Views Military Talks With Kazakhstan

PM2108144992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Aug 92 p 1

[Report by ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin: "Russia-Kazakhstan: Bilateral Talks on Military Issues"]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—"The Russian-Kazakh talks on questions of cooperation in the military sphere have significantly stimulated the preparation of a bilateral agreement on collective security," Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, believes. He headed the Russian military delegation at the talks, which ended on 19 August in Alma-Ata. "We familiarized one another with our stance on the basic problems of the building, development, and reform of our states' armed forces, and we came to the conclusion that they must constitute an entity in the collective security system," the military chief stressed in an interview with your ITAR-TASS observer.

We and our Kazakh colleagues also reached full mutual understanding on the problems of the strategic forces deployed on this state's territory, Viktor Dubynin noted. The legal basis for the strategic nuclear forces' presence on Kazakh soil for the next seven years and the way in which they will be withdrawn to Russia for subsequent disbandment were elaborated in detail.

On my arrival in Moscow, the chief of the General Staff said, I will report to the president on the agreements that have been reached and military specialists will start preparing the relevant documents for signing at the level of Russian and Kazakh heads of state and heads of government.

Colonel General Dubynin noted the positive results of the talks on the status of test ranges located in Kazakhstan.

The talks on questions of bilateral cooperation in the military sphere fully accord with the provisions of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakh Defense Minister Colonel General Sagadat Nurmagambetov stressed to your ITAR-TASS observer in an interview.

Russia Seeks To Keep Key Baltic Military Sites

LD2308085492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] Russian troops in the Baltics have not threatened anybody and we do not intend to leave them there, Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, first deputy foreign minister of Russia, told the Baltic News Service agency. Commenting on Russia's proposals on the dates for the withdrawal of troops, Shelov-Kovedyayev said that he did not share fears by the Baltic side about Russia's alleged aspiration to legalize the presence of its army in these countries.

Concerning the Russian proposal to preserve some important military installations on the republics' territory, the Russian diplomat explained that these installations are part of the world security system. According to Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russia proposes to man them together with representatives of other countries, including the Baltics, as measures of control over them.

Bush Sends Message on Coup Anniversary

LD2108165592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Washington August 21 ITAR-TASS—"One year ago in Moscow, a small group of conspirators sought to set back the clock of freedom. The coup was an ugly act, promoted by an even uglier vision: A return to the horror of the Stalinist past," says President Bush's declaration to the Russian people on the occasion of the first anniversary of the failed coup attempt. "The conspirators failed because brave men and women were prepared to sacrifice everything, indeed their lives, in the cause of freedom. Those men and women prevailed, and the world was changed forever."

"The year since the coup attempt has been one of dramatic change. The Soviet Union has been swept away and twelve new states have begun to chart their destinies, as nations and as neighbors. And America is building a new partnership with a free and democratic Russia.

"Already Russia has come far. You have established your sovereign state, proudly independent, but prepared to work with your neighbors in the interest of peace and security. You have taken great strides towards responsible disposition of the Soviet nuclear arsenal. You have shown through President Yeltsin's negotiating efforts in Moldova, in Georgia, and on the Black Sea Fleet, the courage to use peaceful means to resolve differences. You have begun, in short to lay the foundation of trust that will serve all the new states—and the world—well in the years and decades to come.

"You are also transforming yourselves. This is, perhaps, the harder task. America and the world have watched with admiration as you have gone forward to free your economy and society from the shackles of communism. But we have also watched with sympathy, moved by sufferings of those who must still endure the economic legacy of Soviet misrule. Reform will take time. There are no simple solutions, there will be setbacks and adjustments. But your commitment to move forward, to stay the course, remains critical. As you yourselves have said, there can be no turning back.

"America has helped and will continue to help. Within weeks, I hope to sign the Freedom Support Act, America's part in an international effort to ease hardship and bolster reform.

"The brave men and women who foiled the August coup attempt were indeed heroes. But so, too, are the men and women who do the hard work of freedom a year later: The leaders committed to push through reforms, and the citizens prepared to weather hardship today so that Russia might live freer and more abundantly tomorrow.

"To all these heroes I say: America stands with you."

American-Russian Satellite Launched

PM2108144492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 92

["Novosti" newscast video report by unidentified reporter]

[Text] [reporter voice over video of rocket] This rocket, which in a few minutes will be launched from the Plesetsk cosmodrome, will put in orbit the small "Pion-Germes" satellite. It is designed to study the dense strata of the atmosphere. Perhaps against the background of imposing expeditions into space this event is not that important. Nonetheless it provides a pretext for discussing the problems of our cosmonautics. While remaining a leading one this sphere, like all practical spheres of science and production, is now experiencing economic difficulties. Therefore the attraction of funds from commercial structures for the implementation of individual projects could in part do away with this very acute question. That is exactly what has been done by the "Foton" design bureau in Samara city and the Russian-American Kaziyeva-Germes company, in concluding an agreement on a joint development.

[L.L. Kaziyeva, the company's president] Cosmonautics represent prestige for Russian science and technology. That is why as a Russian businesswoman I am putting my efforts into this field. What is to Russia's advantage is to our advantage.

[Reporter] And so the rocket has been successfully launched. The satellite is in orbit and the "Germes" company and the "Foton" design bureau already have a contract for a larger joint project.

Yeltsin Makes New Military Appointments

PM2108170292 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 22 Aug 92 p1

["Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Center Reports New Appointments"—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA headline]

[Text] By decrees of Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin the following appointments are made in the Russian Armed Forces:

Commander in Chief of Ground Forces—Colonel General Vladimir Magomedovich Semenov;

Commander in Chief of Strategic Missile Forces—Col. Gen. Igor Dmitriyevich Sergeyev;

Commander in Chief of the Navy—Admiral Feliks Nikolayevich Gromov;

Commander in Chief of Air Defense Forces—Col. Gen. of Aviation Viktor Alekseyevich Prudnikov.

The following have become chiefs of General Staff main directorates: Lieutenant General Viktor Mikhaylovich Barynkin and Lt. Gen. Vitaliy Ignatyevich Bologov.

The following appointments have also been made: chief of armament of the Russian Federation Armed Forces—Col. Gen. Vyacheslav Petrovich Mironov; chief of construction and billeting of the Russian Federation Armed Forces—Col. Gen. Nikolay Vasilyevich Chekov.

Lt. Gen. Yevgeniy Vasilyevich Vysotskiy is appointed chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Directorate of Personnel Training and Placement. His first deputy is Col. Gen. Valentin Alekseyevich Yakovlev.

Lt. Gen. Vasiliy Vasilyevich Vorobyev becomes head of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Directorate of Military Budget and Finance, and Col. Gen. of the Medical Service Eduard Aleksandrovich Nechayev becomes head of the Defense Ministry Main Military Medical Directorate. Col. Gen. Nikolay Afanasyevich Zazulin is appointed chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Automotive Directorate.

Government, Diplomatic Appointments

PM2108134592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Aug 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "By Decree of the Russian President"]

[Text] By decree of the Russian president:

Vitaliy Petrovich Yermolenko has been appointed minister of the Russian Federation and director of the Russian Federal Center for Land and Agro-Industrial Reform;

Vitaliy Yakovlevich Litvin, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cameroon, has been appointed Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Equatorial Guinea as well;

Nikolay Mikhaylovich Obertyshev has been appointed Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Lithuania;

Igor Aleksandrovich Saprykin has been appointed Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Belarus;

Lev Aleksandrovich Vakhrameyev has been relieved of his duties as Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Equatorial Guinea owing to his retirement on pension.

Foreign Ministry To Be Reduced by 10 Percent

OW2108135092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1320 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, I. Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to information available to DP [Diplomatic Panorama], the staff of Russia's Foreign Ministry will be reduced by about 10% in the near future because of cuts in the government allocations for diplomatic activity.

It is believed that the plans for reductions will have to be prepared by the beginning of September. Under them tens of Russian embassies and consulates, largely in African and Latin American countries, will evidently be shut down.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, cuts are envisaged in the remaining Russian diplomatic missions too. Many diplomats will have to hold offices in two or more countries simultaneously.

It's common knowledge that at a recent government session Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar called for cutting hard-currency allocations for Russia's Foreign Ministry by one half.

Yeltsin Views Year, Reform at News Conference

LD2108123192 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Aug 92

[News conference by President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, moderated by Presidential Press Secretary Kostikov, with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Presidential Press Center in the Kremlin in Moscow—live]

[Text] [Kostikov] Ladies and gentlemen: The president of the Russian Federation! [applause]

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to welcome you for the first time to the Presidential Press Center. I declare this news conference by the president of the Russian Federation open.

[Yeltsin] Esteemed journalists, ladies and gentlemen: I am happy to welcome you on the day of victory—today, 21 August—of the forces of democracy and the supporters of change, of the whole Russian people, over reaction. I congratulate you on this day, which was the start of new times in the life of Russia. Quite a few events have occurred since the August putsch, but they cannot consign to oblivion what the country lived through at that time. Today there is no doubt that the memory of those August days and nights is alive.

The role of journalists was not inconsequential. A year ago one of the first orders by the junta was to close down—to close down many democratic publications and entire television channels and radio stations. Of course, you remember that well; of course that is well remembered.

It was clear to the plotters that the mass media would not become blind bearers of the will of the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] and that the most important thing for them was to bring the truth to their readers, viewers, and listeners. In particular, I would like to note the role of the radio station Ekho Moskvy in those events. It was the first to break through onto the airwaves during the morning of 19 August.

Journalists did not give up. They used any—and the most unusual—opportunities to make sure that a true account of what was happening reached the people. Unfortunately, there were those who abjectly executed decisions and the will of the SCSE. Thanks to your selfless actions, the putschists failed to create a smoke screen around their activities.

The answer to the question of who was who became very clear-cut to Russia's inhabitants even during the morning and early afternoon of 19 August, during the first half of the day. And it was not just Russia's inhabitants but also the states of the former union and the whole world. I was telephoned by approximately 20 heads of state in the world in the first half of 19 August alone. Many dozens of your colleagues, including female journalists, were in the White House and around it during the most crucial hours, under severe conditions. It was raining, if you remember.

Under unthinkably hard conditions they continued their noble work, despite the real danger that loomed over all of us—over our lives, the lives of our children, families, and grandchildren. The animated, passionate words the journalists used in defense of freedom and democracy fortified the spiritual strength and will of the people not only around the White House but also the Russian people in other countries. The world was learning from you about the new Russia, previously unknown, the Russia that could overcome its old instinct of resigned submissiveness.

Meeting you today, I wholeheartedly thank the majority of Russian journalists for your dedication to your professional duty at that critical moment, for your demonstration of real patriotism, and your love for Russia and Russians. Along with most Russians, you supported the legitimate power, and did not allow the brutal force and arbitrariness to come to power again in our long-suffering country.

As president, I would like to express my gratitude to your foreign colleagues for their courage, dedication to the ideals of freedom, and their support of Russia. Using this opportunity, I would like to state once again my firm adherence to the principle of the freedom of speech and the freedom of mass media. Russia's inhabitants stood up for it one year ago, and the most important task for us now is under no circumstances to allow it to be restricted in any way. Attempts of this sort have taken place, and I think that they are unsuccessful.

The August putsch belongs to history. Today, the whole course of Russian life is determined by reforms. Privatization is now coming to the fore. It is important for us that citizens of Russia should be actively involved in this process, and should acquire the first real practical experience of economic behavior, so that it is the people's, not in words but in fact.

We are seriously concerned about preserving sociopolitical stability in Russia so that, through our economic policy, we lessen social tension instead of intensifying it. Preparations for the winter are at the center of our attention. The government and the president guarantee that it will not be a hungry one for Russia's residents.

One of the most important directions in our work is the strengthening of the Russian Federation and relations between states of the Commonwealth. We are interested in stable mechanisms for our cooperation. I think your questions will touch not just on the putsch and Russia's current internal problems but also on Russia's foreign policy. I am ready to reply to any of your questions.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, thank you very much. Gentlemen, we will begin the question and answer session. I think you will understand if I grant the first question to the representative of the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY. Markov, please take the floor.

[Markov] Boris Nikolayevich, allow me first to congratulate you on the first anniversary of the great victory, the full importance of which will probably be appreciated only with time. Please, can you tell how unexpected the August putsch was to you, what moment during those memorable days became a breakthrough point for you, and what finally convinced you that the putschists would fail?

[Yeltsin] Three questions at once. You are an energetic person. In general, I should say that you and I have established some sort of private contacts.

It was 0630 in the morning of 19 August when I was awakened by my daughter Tatyana, who said: They are saying something strange on the television. I quickly looked at the 10-minute report on the television about the creation of this committee, and I realized at once that this was a putsch. This was an absolute surprise to me.

Yes, you remember that earlier on, at the Congress of People's Deputies, Shevardnadze was talking about the possibility of such a putsch, but this was said hypothetically, after all. But in reality we were about to sign the Union Treaty that day. Many—the majority of the leaders of the republics, the states—had arrived to sign it. After all, we had already prepared it.

Anyway, it was precisely the treaty that the putschists did not need. That is the first part of the question. It was a complete surprise to me, but not for everyone, apart from those incarcerated in Matrosskaya Tishina. [sentence as heard]

The second question, on the culmination. There are very many details of the putsch that are known only to me alone. History will most likely compel me to write a book on the putsch overall, perhaps something like "Before the Putsch," "The Putsch," or "After the Putsch." But really, who spoke to 20, or more than 20, heads of state? It was me who spoke to them. I monitored every minute of all those 72 hours of 19, 20, and 21 August. Of course, I do not want to claim for myself any outstanding actions or merits at that time. But from the point of view of simply objective information, yes, I know much that you do not know today, although doubtlessly around 10 books about the putsch have already come out.

[Markov] If not more.

[Yeltsin] If not more.

The evening of 20 August was the most dangerous—yesterday evening, as it were. It was then that the storming of the White House was planned. I do not believe that it was dangerous on 18 August, when I returned from Alma-Ata and my arrest or—well, the shooting down of my plane—was planned. It was not that dangerous. But the storming of the White House by the KGB Alpha Team, the Tula Airborne Assault troops, or by tanks, that was dangerous. When Yazov shouted on the phone: Why hasn't Yeltsin been killed yet? Why hasn't the White House been stormed yet? Well, that was terrible! Terrible not from the personal point of view but from the point of view of the situation that was evolving.

The most difficult thing was how to find a means of taking them. They were in the Kremlin. You and I are in the Kremlin today and we are under protection, under considerable protection. They were all in the Kremlin. Kryuchkov was the main ideologue and organizer—that is indisputable. I think that the court—and the case runs to 125 volumes—the court will show later who was who, who did what, who was involved, who took an active part. Kryuchkov was undoubtedly the most active participant. With all candor—perhaps that word does not quite suit this event—I played the whole game with him, with Kryuchkov.

I had to outwit him. If I could outwit Kryuchkov, we could do our business. Of course the Muscovites, the people, Russia's inhabitants defending the White House, created such a background that everyone was frightened. After all, the majority of countries in the world, and heads of states, immediately realized that it was a putsch, an unconstitutional step, and unconstitutional actions.

So we started telephone conversations with Kryuchkov. I told Yazov and Yanayev directly over the phone: You are traitors and I will fight you. That is it. As for Kryuchkov, it was as if I was negotiating with him. The main task was to get them out of the Kremlin and to take them somewhere, to different territory. Foros happened to be such a territory.

I said: Since you do not have any documents proving that Gorbachev is not fit to rule the state—as they told me; Yanayev told me—I said give me the proof in accordance with the Constitution, either the findings of a medical commission or his own statement. Do you have them? Well, we will have them any minute now, they said. But you do not have them, do you? No. Then I am fighting against you.

I then told Kryuchkov that one and only one thing could convince us. As you are saying that it exists, fly to Gorbachev, to Foros, and get his statement. Bring it here and tell us and the whole world that yes, the president refuses to lead the state.

I said: I am prepared to go with you. Now I think that this—as they say—chess move won him over. But the Supreme Soviet did not allow me, which I had also expected. I told Kryuchkov that he alone could not succeed in persuading Gorbachev if there was no such statement. You should go as a complete team, I said.

So these cranks went as a complete team. After that our own plane took off, as was agreed, with Rutskoy and Silayev on board, along with 50 well-trained young men. There they were all arrested.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, thank you for this story. It was as if we were all again experiencing the anxious and then happy atmosphere of those days. The second question is from the Information Television Agency. Dorenko, the most handsome man on television.

[Yeltsin] In that case you should have given the floor to a woman.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, we will make it right, I promise.

[Dorenko] I bear no relation to that compliment. Boris Nikolayevich, recently the conservatives called last year's putsch an operetta. They are now counting on a new attempt at changing power on the basis of wide-scale disturbances among the population that could, for example, be caused by the closure of some enterprises this fall. Do you think that last year's performance was vaudeville, and do you see a danger of a social explosion, which the opposition will certainly be in the forefront of?

[Yeltsin] I wouldn't call it an operetta when Varennikov calls from Kiev, from Kravchuk's office, and shouts on the phone: Why hasn't the Russian president, Yeltsin, been shot yet? He called Yazov and asked: Why hasn't the White House been stormed yet? That's no operetta. Thousands of tanks and APC's on the streets—is that an operetta? That's simply a cheap interpretation and a provocation, I believe. No, it was extremely serious, for Russia and the entire world. They could have taken power, but I think that first of all, they didn't have the public's support or, to a degree—excuse me—enough brainpower.

Regarding the second part of your question. I have said on many occasions, and I say it again today that the reality, as some newspapers on the right call it, of putsch two after putsch one, does not exist. There will be no second putsch. I firmly declare that to you.

There is no basis for it from the point of view of the highest leadership, of the power structures. Because at that time everybody betrayed Gorbachev, from his personal bodyguards to the prime minister. We do not have such a situation now. There is trust in the president on the part of all these leaders and complete mutual understanding about the situation.

That is another matter. I share your fears with regard to the people's dissatisfaction. Things must be followed closely here; incidentally, that is what we are doing.

As you remember, we were told that an all-Russian rebellion would take place in April, March, or May—but nothing happened. Now look at the figures. In January prices shot up by 343 percent. But now look further. During these seven months changes have gradually taken place, and already for three months in a row the price index has been growing slower than average wages. Look at July: Wages increased by 16 percent while the price index increased by 10 percent. In July the average pay was 5,900 rubles [R]—the average one, of course.

Three days ago I signed a decree to support the budget-financed sphere: National education, health care, the military, culture, television. In other words, I for one am confident that we will live normally through August and September. October will be very difficult, because unfortunately, those political games will start again. But as of 1 October the issuing of privatization vouchers will begin. I did not speak about that the day before yesterday for nothing.

All the same this will, in a way, draw people into this sphere and allow them to have some kind of property, or maybe exchange these checks for cash or do something else. All the same, it is reassuring that we are dividing the total amount due for privatization in Russia by the total number of the population, including infants and the elderly. First we set this figure at R8,000 rubles, then decided that it ought to be R10,000. So it is R10,000. Everybody will be presented with one of these privatization checks.

Of course, I cannot confidently say that we have definitely crossed that Rubicon, that there will not be massive discontent. But, at the same time, I have an intuitive conviction that we will get over it. The most important thing is to get through this year. Life will become easier for all of us in 1993.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, let me correct my blunder, a blunder of democracy, and pass the floor to the ladies. Please go ahead.

[Sidorova] Thank you.

[Kostikov] Please identify yourself.

[Sidorova] I am Natalya Sidorova from the Moscow office of the St. Petersburg TV and Radio Company. Boris Nikolayevich, first I would like to thank the Russian leadership, in your person, for one of the first steps after the August putsch—the restoration of our city's historical name. Thank you. This was no surprise to us because, at that time, you were already an honorary member of the worldwide St. Petersburg club, as you know.

[Yeltsin] Thank you.

[Sidorova] My question is this: Generally speaking, the system of statehood we have in Russia continues to present a problem. We are living under the old Constitution. It may have been patched and repatched, but it is still the old one. The present membership of the Supreme Soviet or the congress will not adopt a new constitution. I believe that you, too, are aware of this. So how do you view the idea of a Constituent Assembly that would adopt a new constitution and elections law and ensure a peaceful transition to a democratic state?

[Yeltsin] I understand your question.

[Sidorova] Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Thank you. I also welcome the city's name change. As for the Constitution, you know I am the chairman of the Constitutional Commission approved by the Congress of People's Deputies. But my candidacy was approved when I was the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, before I was elected president. I carried out active work. But once I was elected president, I thought it unethical for me to chair meetings of the Constitutional Commission. I later understood that it was my mistake, and I admit that to you and Russia's inhabitants.

I returned to the Constitutional Commission and chaired its meeting on 29 July. We have already made enough headway so that there are no more alternative drafts. Remember, there were four or five alternative drafts. No, we are now dealing with a draft that, on the whole, was approved by the Congress of People's Deputies. I confirmed the working order of the Constitutional Commission, and I put my name to presidential amendments for every member of the Constitutional Commission yesterday. [sentence as heard] I did this because a decision of the Congress of People's Deputies said: To be examined by the Supreme Soviet and submitted for confirmation, taking into account presidential amendments.

There are quite a few of them there, 16, and I put my name to them. Let each member of the Constitutional Commission examine them and then we—the Constitutional Commission—will get together in September and then submit a draft constitution to the Supreme Soviet for its consideration.

I think the Supreme Soviet will be able to adopt it with some amendments. I doubt if a Congress would adopt it—I agree with you on that—because there is no place for a Congress in it, in the draft constitution. Therefore, we agreed that when we finally vote on this draft constitution at the Constitutional Commission in September, we will determine the procedure for adopting it. It has not been ruled out that it could be via a constituent assembly.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, the long-suffering IZVESTIYA asks to speak. Kononenko.

[Konenenko] Vasiliy Kononenko of IZVESTIYA. Boris Nikolayevich, today, of course, one would like to speak only about the good things that the people of Russia demonstrated one year ago when they came out in defense of democracy. Lately, however, the disappointment has often been expressed that the democrats wasted the charge of energy they received in the three days of August and did not use it properly. Do you share this opinion? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] That is, of course, a very complicated question. Yes, if one examines the period following any revolution, at first there is always a euphoria for a certain period. That is how it was, too, after the victory of democracy in Russia and in the other countries of the Commonwealth. But after the euphoria came the responsibility for getting things done.

Unfortunately, first, not everything went right for the democrats. Second, they turned out to be fragmented. There was no united democratic force unfortunately, and this gave the conservative forces the opportunity to consolidate themselves and seriously criticize the democrats. On the whole this criticism was justified.

Nevertheless, I believe today—especially after, I hope, the just decision by the Constitutional Court—that the power of the conservative forces will fade considerably and that that of the democrats will be boosted. I hope specifically for this and I hope that, nonetheless, democracy will triumph here in Russia.

Regarding IZVESTIYA, I would like to say that I have supported and continue to support both the mass media and the newspaper IZVESTIYA. I was very upset with the decision adopted [by the Russian Supreme Soviet]. I made a particular decision not to sign it today, but tomorrow I will sign a decree. The material facilities are being handed over to you in full. That is my right as president, and I am handing these facilities over to you. [applause]

You have always been able to defend yourselves. You have stood up for yourselves in the past and you will continue to do so in the future. I am convinced of this.

[Kostikov] I am concerned that our fellow journalists from abroad should not take offense at us. I have a note from ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent Brian Bramley. Is he here? Can I see him?

[Yeltsin] No, we cannot see him.

[Kostikov] You can ask the question yourself, or do you want me to read it out for you, Brian Bramley of the ASSOCIATED PRESS?

Boris Nikolayevich, soon after the latest assembly of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, you spoke of the possibility of a referendum and the possibility of new elections and a new Congress. Have you decided against it, or are you still thinking about it?

[Yeltsin] Just before the Supreme Soviet debated the mass media, I met the chief editors of the newspapers, radio, and television. There were 20, 22 or so people there, right? I explained my point of view. I thought that the issue of the Congress of People's Deputies should and could be decided by referendum. But a referendum should be held not only on the Congress but also, let us say, on a new constitution, on the principles of a new constitution in which there is no Congress.

In accordance with the referendum we could implement a number of principles, one of them being that the Congress should cease to exist. I think that the Congress of People's Deputies has played its role—a positive one. Now, as democracy is continuing to develop, one parliament on top of another is no longer needed.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, you remember, of course, the role played by the Ekho Moskvy radio station in those days of August. Our magnificent, most ironic Andrey Cherkisov is hiding somewhere in the hall, but there is a note from him. He is asking to speak for himself.

[Cherkisov] Mr. President, Mr. Press Secretary, I greet you on the anniversary of the victory. Our question: You probably know, Boris Nikolayevich, that our radio station's slogan is: A free radio for free people. Yesterday we went to the place in Moscow where free people gathered, both a year ago and yesterday—the White House. We picked out the freest of people, those in the tenth grade. We did not ask them to take another exam; they have already finished ninth grade. We said: What question would you like to ask the president of Russia? Here it is: Boris Nikolayevich, a year has passed from one August to another. What has it taught you? What have you learned for yourself? Thank you. That is the question, word for word.

[Yeltsin] First, I would like to take advantage of the fact that it is you who asked the question and once again express my gratitude to your radio station. At that time we had a most acute need for a way to get information to the people. First an appeal—an appeal to the people, to Russians—and then all the decisions that were being made. I remember that at 0630 we sat down in Arkhangelskoye to write an appeal. It was me, Khasbulatov, Silayev, Poltoranin, Burbulis, Sobchak, and later came—you can remind me—Rutskoy, Yaroshenko...

[Kostikov, interrupting] Filatov, was it?

[Yeltsin] No.

[Kostikov] Luzhkov?

[Yeltsin] Luzhkov—yes, quite right. In general, we got together in my little room and started to write that appeal together. People added bits to it and so on. We wrote it. How was it to be issued? First we phoned those in Zelenograd who had supported the Russian president during the election campaign there. (Miteva) was the deputy chairman of the committee there. Now I think she is in the executive committee, isn't she? Yes.

My daughters spoke to her directly over the ordinary town telephone since all the others had been taken over completely. I asked: Make millions of copies quickly—they have the technical capabilities—and quickly get them to the air terminals, railway stations, and the airport. In general, do absolutely everything to see that the appeal goes all around Russia.

Apart from that, we switched on—well, not switched on, but rather got hold of—a portable radio transmitter. When all the telephones had been switched off, we took it up to the roof of the White House and, through Ekho Moskvy, broadcast to the whole world on shortwave frequencies. Incidentally, that was how the whole world found out about the appeal and the first decrees, and so on and so forth. Incidentally, one of the decrees was interesting, one on the mass media, issued exactly on 21 August. It was very interesting. I read through it today. I do not know, do I have it?

[Kostikov] Take a look, Boris Nikolayevich. We have something here. Here is the decree.

[Yeltsin] Yes.

[Kostikov] The president's decrees adopted during the coup. Here it is.

[Yeltsin] You will remember that the putschists immediately issued instructions to close all the democratic mass media. Then there is the presidential decree to... [pauses] Well, I will not go into that here. The group of persons who declared themselves the SCSE in the USSR adopted a decision to establish control over the mass media; that is, censorship. Well, as president of Russia I repeal that decision. I repeal the decisions (?adopted) by the SCSE on the mass media as having no constitutional or legal force from the moment they were issued. They placed a ban on propaganda, etc.—on several things.

I would still like to go back to the fact that all these media—I would say primarily Ekho Moskvy but the other democratic mass media, too—found the inner strength, despite colossal resistance and pressure, and crude pressure at that, to nevertheless tell the people the truth.

I do not want to talk about those who completely submitted to the SCSE members, dictating their words and decisions, and disseminated information, so to speak, on the absolutely correct way for Russia to proceed today—the emergency situation, a dictatorship, etc.

[Kostikov] We keep forgetting the people on the left side. Please.

[Cherkisov] You have not answered the question, Boris Nikolayevich. I would like you to answer my question. What has this year taught you? What have you learned?

[Yeltsin] The first thing this year has taught me is this: For four years I had been indignant about why we were not starting economic reforms. Since 1987 I had been voicing my indignation openly at Central Committee plenums, in this hall, at sessions of the Union Supreme Soviet. We lost many years. That is why I was the most resolute advocate of starting our economic reform from the first days; more precisely, as of 2 January.

I was aware that these measures were not popular and that they would not improve my position in the opinion polls. But this was not a goal to pursue. One had to think about Russia and its citizens. That was it; the vicious communist path was definitively rejected and one had to take a civilized path of development. So, after my address to the nation the day before yesterday, the main newspapers fished out one thing from there: We stepped into the water not knowing how to swim.

[Kostikov] But we have not drowned.

[Yeltsin] But we have not drowned, that is correct. Not all the newspapers included this last part, but some did. This is precisely what we have learned. Together we have learned—me as president and, I think, the majority of citizens of Russia—at least some basics of the market economy, what it is all about, that this is not a simple leveling out or a redistribution of wages. No! One should work and earn as much as one can. We do not need a handful of millionaires.

We need millions of owners of private property. We have become completely unaccustomed to this, but I have become fully accustomed to it, and it is something I recognize. I believe that the state dachas—we have dozens and dozens of them—are something with which the civilized world has no similar experience. I say this for all Russians to hear: I have begun to build my own dacha, but with my own money.

[Kostikov] I see myself as a property owner as well. [off-microphone comments indistinct]

[Yeltsin] About two months.

[Kostikov] But everyone will be writing about it tomorrow. [laughter]

[Yeltsin] I can tell you the address if you like. It is near Gorky's dacha. A little piece of land there.

[Kostikov] A nice neighborhood. Andrey, are you satisfied now?

[Cherkisov] Boris Nikolayevich, thank you.

[Kostikov] Andrey, that will do. When we come and see you we will answer all your questions.

[Unidentified speaker] Ekho Moskvy has a birthday tomorrow. It will be two years old. That can be our present. Please come over to our place and we will go on the air live.

[Yeltsin] I cannot.

[Unidentified speaker] You cannot force him.

[Kostikov] Give it a rest.

[Yeltsin] I congratulate you, I greet you, I thank you. We have really done a lot. I delegate the president's press secretary to you. He will arrive tomorrow for the president and greet you. [laughter]

[Kostikov] I give up.

[Voronin] Boris Nikolayevich, you have a good memory. I remember the episode last 19 August when I approached you in the White House at about 1200 and said: There has just been a session of the centrist bloc and the Soyuz group has come out in support of the SCSE. Do you remember what you said to me?

[Yeltsin] Yes.

[Voronin] You said: This was to be expected.

[Yeltsin] Yes, this was to be expected, yes.

[Voronin] This question is clear. For the entire three days I observed you in the White House. I was there all the days, so to speak. As they say, I kept out of sight. The question, Boris Nikolayevich, and you said you would answer any question. There is trouble. Now I ask you to answer. In Abkhazia blood is now being shed. Shevardnadze, unfortunately, the one who was here last year, I think his hands are bloody, so to speak. Express your position and tell us what, so to speak, can be done for our fraternal Abkhazian people. It is necessary to help them. That is the first question. Second, you are going to Japan in the near future...

[Kostikov, interrupting] One question, one question—we are asking one question each. I ask you...

[Voronin, interrupting] Alright, one question—your position on our Abkhazians, so to speak. Thank you. Vladimir Voronin, political observer for the TSENTR newspaper.

[Yeltsin] Yes, yes, I know.

[Voronin] No, I was asked to introduce myself.

[Yeltsin] Regarding Abkhazia, you know about the decision by the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, that they want to separate from Georgia and join Russia. Georgia is of course against this idea. On the whole this complicates their internal process. From what point do we proceed?

Whatever events are taking place in foreign countries nearby, as the saying goes these days—in Moldova, Georgia, Ossetia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and so on—we stick to our main principle: We are in favor of state integrity. Russia is perhaps in the most difficult situation—there are 20 republics there. But nevertheless we have preserved this integrity.

They want to drag us into Abkhazia, into this confrontation between Georgia and Abkhazia. They want more young men from all over Russia to lose their lives. How can they think of dragging us into that? How can they? We should adopt political methods, call them to talks. I say to Shevardnadze—we met yesterday with the defense and security ministers, and talked with Kitovani—take your troops out of Abkhazia. The Georgian State Council is discussing this today—the withdrawal of troops from Sukhumi, the guardsmen. But unfortunately, the two sides there do not understand each other.

I am very concerned that the State Council's ruling might not be recognized by some. There are, unfortunately, such forces there.

We are closely following the development of these events. We must never allow that to flow beyond the border of Abkhazia onto the territory of Russia, not in any event. We are taking measures here already. We are reinforcing the border. Barannikov, Grachev, and I and others met yesterday and we are taking measures. But it would be madness simply to go over to the side of Abkhazia and fight against the Georgians.

[Kostikov] Boris Nikolayevich, I feel that in no circumstances can we escape from Japan and Japanese questions. I have Mr. Tomura's request here, from NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN. Give them the microphone please.

[Tomura] The Japanese newspaper NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN. This question comes from the head of its office, Mr. Tomura. Mr. President, heading into your visit to Japan, what can you say about the territorial problem existing between our two countries? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I have 12 options in approaching this problem. [laughter] I will say my final word on it on the second day of my visit to Japan.

[Kostikov] A question from the right side. Introduce yourself.

[Gamov] Aleksandr Gamov from Moscow's VECHERNIY KLUB newspaper. Boris Nikolayevich, you know that a few days ago the ex-president of the USSR also held a news conference devoted...

[Kostikov, interrupting] Gorbachev held it, excuse me.

[Gamov] Yes, devoted to the anniversary of the August events. In general, he was complaining about you and about your team, saying that however difficult things may be for you, you are not really making very effective use of the potential of the first reformers, although, as far as we know, you came to some understandings with Mikhail Sergeyevich in December. Could you reply to this question?

[Yeltsin] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is flying out for a real royal holiday in Spain tomorrow. Let us not spoil his mood for him on the eve of such a holiday.

[Kostikov] Terekhov, of INTERFAX.

[Terekhov] Terekhov, INTERFAX. Boris Nikolayevich, mutual understanding is needed, as a minimum, for reforms to proceed successfully. The government's view is that we are currently at the second stage of reforms, while the opposition believes that we are experiencing a period of stagnation. To reply to the question of where we are at the moment, could you say what priorities you, as president, have singled out for us at this second stage of reforms?

[Yeltsin] In the first place, I think that we have carried out the first stage of reforms. Things are, of course, difficult. It is difficult for the people and it is also difficult for all of us. Nonetheless, we have carried out the program; we have fulfilled it. The second thing is that the draft on deepening the reforms has been examined and approved by the government. The draft spans the last six months of this year, as well as 1993 and 1994. These questions are even more serious, although this first half of the year was very difficult for people, especially from the viewpoint of price liberalization. I would say that the issue of privatization is moving to the forefront now. Yes, numerous international specialists have reproached us because we began with price liberalization and not with privatization. Yet again we are convinced that this step was correct. For just over 70 years the people's concept of private property and business had completely faded from their consciousness. If we had privatized in January, people would not have understood the implications at all. All the same, seven months later, people are somehow becoming psychologically reconciled to it and are beginning to grasp what private ownership is. That is why privatization is, as it were, issue number one during the second stage.

[Kostikov] A question from microphone three.

[Unidentified correspondent] The newspaper DELOVOY...

[Kostikov, interrupting] No, no, wait a bit. A question from microphone three.

[Correspondent, in Italian followed by Russian translation] A question from a correspondent from Italian RAI television. Privatization is coming into force and gaining pace. It is very possible that there will be new social problems in connection with this, perhaps even disturbances as factories close and the number of unemployed increases. How are you going to tackle these problems, Mr. President?

[Yeltsin] I, of course, am aware, just as the government, the Supreme Soviet, and the presidential agencies are aware, that this is a very difficult question from the point of view of the implementation of privatization, privatization checks, and so on.

There has never been anything in the world like what we are doing this year, reducing the military orders of defense enterprises by 68 percent. Can you imagine it? Yes, 7 percent has happened, even 8 percent—yes, that has happened, 8 percent has happened, but no longer. Here we have 68 percent. We had a mutilated economy—horribly militarized, beyond any logic.

I saw it with my own eyes quite recently when I visited Nizhniy Tagil and Sverdlovsk Oblast. My mother—who lives there—suffered a heart attack. I visited her and then went on to Nizhniy Tagil. The Urals Waggon Works manufactures the most modern tanks in the world—the T-88's. There is no better tank in the world. It is sent across the street under its own steam to the Nizhnyy Tagil Metallurgical Works and melted down there. Can you imagine the idiocy of that? That is to say, we should have sharply cut back these military orders and we did this—tanks, planes, helicopters, armored personnel carriers, weapons, and so on and so forth. Of course, people are affected by that. We are taking some measures for the social protection of the defense industries. We do not want to turn aside from them just like that and to leave them to the mercy of fate in this situation. Of course not. We are helping them—through taxes, and so forth. We are creating favorable conditions, but to say that we will get by without any unemployment at all, of course, I simply would be... [pauses] It would simply be dishonest to the people of Russia, our people. I do not think, however, that it will be on the scale that exists today in Western countries. No, there will be no such thing.

[Kostikov] Volyn, of the MEGAPOLIS EKSPRESS, microphone six.

[Volyn] Boris Nikolayevich, from the newspaper MEGAPOLIS EKSPRESS. A year ago, the putschists were routed, the putsch was buried, and I congratulate you on this. Today, people are wondering—if there is a new putsch—who will be among the initiators? You said that there are no such people amongst your comrades-in-arms and friends, of course. Boris Nikolayevich, there are enough such aces outside the Kremlin. We all recall full well the mad orgy by the Red and Browns at Ostankino and the speeches by the nationalist patriots. What is your opinion? What force or forces are there today capable of bringing themselves to organize a new coup, let us say, this winter?

[Yeltsin] There is no such force! Lenin once said: There is such a party, and now I am saying there is no such force. This force has no base. After all, the people are the main base. The president is often told to set up a party of his own as soon as possible. But I keep saying: No, no, and no! Because the people are the president's main base. If the people support him, this is all that is needed. Does Zhirinovskiy have such a base? All right, I can apologize to him, as to a citizen of Russia. And the National Communists? No—well, 3 percent. Three percent! Did you see what went on yesterday outside the house of the Soviets? Someone tried to raise the red flag—and whoosh! Straight away. It did not even last three minutes and it was gone. Real patriotism, Russian patriotism—for the renaissance of the real Russia—this is what people want. They want to live as free people, and not to be humiliated as they were for decades. This is where my strength lies, this is where my main base is. It is not that I want to embellish anything, not at all. I am well aware of the situation.

[Kostikov] Microphone, please, in the second row. Identify yourself, please.

[Fadeyeva] Fadeyeva from Russian television's "Vesti" program. Boris Nikolayevich, the putsch demonstrated the paralysis of the authorities who were in power at that time. Do you think you have managed to surmount that legacy?

[Yeltsin] Paralysis?

[Kostikov] Have you managed to overcome the paralysis of power that you inherited?

[Yeltsin] No, we have not managed this yet. Naturally there are many reasons for this. Basically you cannot follow the path of a law-based, civilized state, with complete separation of powers—legislative power, executive power, and judicial power—just by passing a law. This is decided by the experience of history, tradition, and so on. We need time for this. Yes, we have established some executive branches, through the heads of administration, and so on. This system is working to an extent. All the same, however, there are disagreements between the executive and legislative authorities, both at the top and at the grass roots. There are disputes, though not everywhere. Recently I visited Orenburg Oblast. I visited Kalmykia and Omsk Oblast.

[Kostikov] Buryatia.

[Yeltsin] Buryatia. In these places, executive and legislative authorities are cooperating splendidly. They are not trying to tear this blanket apart or engage in a tug-of-war with each other. No. They are discussing problems with each other and coming to certain decisions. If they fail to agree on a decision, they come to Moscow and ask the government, the Supreme Soviet, and president to assist and make a decision.

On 11 September I want to be in Chuvashia with all the soviet chairmen and administration heads and have a serious talk. What are you doing? The people are sufering so much, and you, in front of them all, in front of the television cameras, you are trying to bite each other's heads off. It will be a serious conversation. I think that, nevertheless, we will succeed in somehow reconciling these branches of power that today seem to be irreconcilable, so to speak, We will succeed. Of course, there are still, as they say, graduates of the old party structures there. Some, nevertheless, have gained common sense, while others want to resist. But these are just remnants. [Kostikov] Please.

[Talalayev] Talalayev, ITAR-TASS. Boris Nikolayevich, the people say bread is the most important thing of all. You have said that this will not be a hungry winter. In this regard, what are the prospects for the harvest, what food reserves will be created, and what basic problems are being resolved by the executive authority in the agricultural sphere?

[Yeltsin] Agriculture's transition to market relations has turned out to be the most complicated problem. In general, so far these market mechanisms either do not work or work very badly in the countryside. Yes, we are now gradually starting again to go over to subsidizing animal husbandry, the raising of animals for meat and milk, and so on and so forth. At the same time, however, we do not want to lose the impulse of market mechanisms. That is why you can now see the ongoing fight for the price for purchasing grain. Villagers are almost staging strikes. It looks as if they have nothing better to do. Our view of the situation is this: We have decided that state procurements should be 30 percent of the gross harvest. After all, we have to supply the north, the Army, and so on. So, state procurements should be 30 percent. The remaining 70 percent can be sold at any price, by exchange, in direct sales, however you wish to do it. But 30 percent should be sold at the state procurement price. We are setting this at a level which is, I would say, more or less favorable to the peasants—a price that ranges from R10 to R20 depending on the variety.

What is the forecast? The forecast is for a better grain harvest than last year. At the moment we are still unable to make predictions like the Americans, but all the same our forecasts are already close to each other. We almost agree. They estimate the harvest will be 98 million tonnes. We estimate it will be 103 million tonnes. We always pitch it higher. It was the same in previous years. If we agree that last year's figure was 88 million, then it will be between 12 and 15 million tonnes of bread grain more than last year. Taking into account the fact that over the past year we purchased 25 million tonnes, the burden borne by our hard currency concerning grain purchases will, of course, be considerably less.

I am firmly convinced, at the very least, that we will have a sufficient quantity of grain for food—no doubt about that. As for potatoes: Yes, how much has been collected to date? Approximately 50 percent has been. Incidentally, the average yield at this time last year was 18.6—but this year, currently, it is 22.4 quintals per hectare. Well, it is usually the case that we sustain losses at the end and that is why I do not wish to say that this will be the final figure where yields are concerned. So, the approximate yield of 20 quintals of grain per hectare will result in the hoped-for 103 million tonnes.

Assistance is being rendered by the military; equipment and transport have been made available as well. There are ups and downs here, but, after all, we cannot simultaneously render assistance to Kazakhstan—where the bread grain harvest is good—and Ukraine. As for potatoes and vegetables, the level here is approximately within the average and that is why we have no fear here. That is to say, the situation is, on the whole, better than last year.

Not as good as we initially expected, of course, because there is a drought in some regions and in others the opposite, rains. So the potential harvest is down, but the situation will nonetheless be better.

[Unidentified correspondent's voice in background]

[Kostikov] One minute, one minute. Apartments are being burgled, cars are being broken into and stolen. It's a question about crime levels. What is being done to bring crime under control? We understand you, colleague, thank you.

[Yeltsin] Regarding the liberalization of foreign trade, a number of additional measures have recently been taken to lower customs duties. Regarding taxation on foreign investment, specific measures have been taken. Regarding crime— well, you know, you cannot sort this out with a decree alone. It is linked, nonetheless, to the economic crisis and people's falling living standards. There are many objective reasons. Of course, we cannot absolve the administrative bodies of guilt. So I signed a decree to combat corruption, and commissions have started to operate. A large number of crooks have been caught, and many millions in personal income.

We are not yet allowed to expose them in the press because we have our criminal code. First, there is the procuracy, investigation, and trial, and then after that it is alright. We would publish all of the 125 volumes on the State Committee for the State of Emergency now. They would make interesting reading and everyone would be enthralled and would read them day and night. It cannot be done, however.

[Kostikov] TRUD newspaper. Please give him the microphone.

[Tishkim] Nikolay Tishkim of TRUD. Boris Nikolayevich, it is now clear and evident to the president and to all of us that this shocking rise in prices and fall in the standard of living is exacerbating social tension in our society. There has been the conflict over the latest strike of air traffic controllers, strikes by medical workers and teachers have been postponed, and other similar events. I would like to know how you regard this popular reaction to our real difficulties and what you think about the fears that have been expressd that a further rise in tension could lead to a radical recoil from radical reforms. In general, what hopes would you like to inspire in the hearts of people for whom life is really hard?

[Yeltsin] First of all, I considern—although some people do not consider me a democrat—I at least consider myself a democrat. Proceeding from this position I say that the people have a right to strike and one should not reproach them for it. Well, apart from certain categories—nuclear power stations and so on—that are defined by law. That is the first thing; that is, they have the right—rights must be respected.

Second, with regard to their future prospects. In the first place, as far as the budget-financed sphere is concerned—teachers and doctors—I have already said that I have signed a decree for a 50 percent pay increase. That is, if it was previously R2,600 it will now be somewhere around 4,000.

As we head into the fourth quarter, into an 18-tier salary system, we will gradually bring the budget-financed sphere up to the level of the material sphere, as I promised. That is the main objective and this will ease some of the tension. As far as the material sphere goes, let the enterprises sort things out for themselves. If they are unable to, then—well, I have signed the new law on bankruptcy adopted by the Supreme Soviet. In other words, such enterprises will go bankrupt. Why not? The entire civilized world lives by such rules. If you cannot work, if you cannot do your job, you will go bankrupt.

What is my intuitive view regarding a forecast for the next few months? We have an amazing situation in our country. No one in the world can understand this. It is only you and I who can understand this—and we do understand it. For the time being the citizen believes in this and will be patient. I see this every month, when I meet people; when I visit the oblasts, krays, and republics—and I visit two or three of them each month. I have just come from Sochi. When I traveled to the airport there, a huge crowd turned out on the streets. This crowd came out on the streets. Let's talk to them, I thought. The people you find in Sochi come from all over Russia—and not only Russia. No, they said, carry on with your reforms, we will stick it out, they insisted. This shows that the people have faith, in spite of everything. Faith and hope remain. For this reason I have confidence. We will not back down.

[Kostikov] Micorophone No. seven.

[Neklyosev] Dmitriy Neklyosev.

[Kostikov] Say it again please. We could not hear you.

[Neklyosev] Youth Channel, Radio Youth [yunost]. Dmitriy Neklyosev. Boris Nikolayevich, first of all, I would like to join in the congratulations. My question does not concern politics. Some Western stars, such as for instance, George Michael and Madonna, together with the firm (List S), wanted to hold a concert in the Kremlin on Red Square at this time. When everything was ready, however—and they had paid all the expenses themselves—they were refused permission for this at the last moment. Could you explain, please, why this was? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I have not refused (List S) yet. I did not even know that such a request had been made—but my fundamental opinion is that this is not a festival. You know what? It was an attempt at a putsch, which could have become a tragedy for Russia and for the whole world. Therefore, to turn that into a festival, into a major festival—all the more so since people perished—is a sacrilege. We have 12 June, the day of Russia's independence. Let's celebrate then. It's a holiday. That is my position. Therefore, when I was congratulated the day before yesterday, yesterday, I said: What are you thinking of? Go to Matrosskaya Tishina [jail where coup organizers are held] and congratulate them there on 19 and 20 August. When congratulations were offered today, I accepted them. Yes, today is a victory.

[Kostikov] Today, a great deal has been said already about hope and about faith. We have Vera [faith] Kuznetsova from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. Let's give her the chance to ask a question.

[Yeltsin] I know her. [laughter] She has a difficult manner.

[Kostikov] Yes, a difficult manner.

[Kuznetsova] Boris Nikolayevich, does Russia have a national security concept, given that, on the whole, the institutions of the KGB have been preserved approximately in their previous form—some cosmetic reforms have been made there? There are still major obstacles in the way of traveling abroad. I would like to know what the concept of our national security is, if you don't mind.

[Kostikov] Vera, that's a global question.

[Yeltsin] A serious one, though. She doesn't deal in trivia. In accordance with the law on security, a Russian Security Council was formed, headed by the president. The Security Council—I believe the Supreme Soviet passed a good law. The Security Council functions on a regular basis. It holds its sessions on Wednesdays. This is not the former Politburo, however. Some people in the papers, or on television, intimate that this is a power structure that wants to have everything under its thumb. It is nothing of the kind. It examines security issues only, national security. I assure you that this is the case. You might ask: Does the Security Council have an agenda? Yes, it does, but it is secret, curiously enough. We discuss the issue of the borders with the republics of the former Union. If we were to tell everyone about that today, then there would be so much fuss that you would not be able to justify yourself later. Or, the issue of a national currency—it is a matter of national security. Or, the issue of the situation in the republics within the Russian Federation—that is national security, too. Or, the issues concerning nuclear weapons cuts, and our accords with the United States—that is our security, too. In general, the spectrum is very big. There is an outline plan for national security, and it has been confirmed by the Security Council.

[Kostikov] There is, nevertheless, the hope that we are entering new times, and therefore I would like to give NOVOYE VREMYA [NEW TIMES] the opportunity to ask a question.

[Shakina] Marina Shakina, NOVOYE VREMYA.

[Yeltsin] The excellent profile of Kozyrev.

[Shakina] Thank you. Boris Nikolayevich, since the CIS was formed in December, many view it as a form of civilized divorce within the framework of the former Union. What are the conclusions you yourself have come to over these six months? Is it a form of divorce, or is it a new organization of the former republics that has a future? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] A very serious question. I will say that throughout the past half year, or slightly more than half a year, there has of course been a certain process taking place, as the former USSR republics that are now independent states and their leaders hesitate over what to do. This is a very interesting evolution. I have always believed in the CIS. I believe in it today, and I am sure that in the future it will change as a form of interrelationship, but it will remain in existence. I am convinced of that. Its evolution is interesting. At first, many decided to distance and isolate themselves completely, forgetting that enterprises, people, territories, and so on and so forth, had been linked for decades—thousands of threads. For example, we did not give Ukraine six tonnes of gold. The whole of Ukraine's electronics industry ground to a halt. Ukraine's electronics industry sends 80 percent of its production to Russia. This seems to be a small example, but there are thousands of examples. When all these problems then began pouring onto the heads of state, everyone began to understand: No, we need to find some common linchpins, some kind of coordinating centers so as to cooperate.

I consider the two most recent assemblies of the Council of Heads of State, in Tashkent and Moscow, to have been the most productive. This was when we decided to establish a coordinating center at the deputy head of government level of all the states. Take a look. Everyone thought that this was it. Russia and Ukraine had gone off in different directions. We managed to find a common language, however, Kravchuk and I. We signed the agreement in Dagomys. We signed the agreement on the Black Sea Fleet in Yalta. We signed the agreement on national currencies. We signed the agreement that no state border must be set up between Russia and Ukraine, because there are 11 million Russians living there. They have families here. If not every day, then every week they go to see each other. So who needs a state border, visas, and so on and so forth? We've been linked together for a thousand years. I believe in the CIS.

[Kostikov] Gentlemen, all good things have to come to an end sometime. Last question. There's a very pleasant...[changes thought] The last.

[Correspondent] [Name indistinct], from the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA and Channel 5 of Italian television. My question might be straightforward, but I would like to know whether you think the West has given you sufficient help, or whether more is needed. Do you think that the West has sufficiently understood you?

[Kostikov] Thank you.

[Yeltsin] First, and most important, this is in our own hands. It is primarily our concern, and it is up to us to undertake efforts to implement reform. Yes, support from the West or the East will, of course, make our situation easier in this very difficult period of transition. It will make people's lives easier. There is no way, though, that it will be our salvation.

Some people are alleging that we would like to implement reform in our country, thanks only to these $24 billion. No, this is not so. Just think, for Russia, with its territory and 150 million people—24 billion is not an adequate sum.

Nevertheless, I am especially grateful to Italy. It is one of the countries that is actually helping Russian reforms in the most efficient way. The Italian side is actively participating in credits, direct investment, the setting up of joint ventures, productions, and so on. I have been on a visit to Italy, and so I am very well acquainted with the many problems that we are tackling together with the Italians, including those concerning putting right all our oil and gas pipelines, which have come or are coming to the end of their serviceable life. They need reconstruction. Six Italian firms have gotten involved in this. The pumping of oil and gas is being increased by 20 percent, including that which goes to the West.

Regrettably, Japan, which I am going to visit, helps least of all in this respect. There are representatives of Japan here, and I would like to say this and do not conceal this fact. Italy, Canada, Germany, France, Britain, and Japan are in the lead. Oh, I am sorry, have I mentioned the United States? It is in fourth place. [laughter] I like the way, in this regard, I have been told constantly, more than once, by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney: If you count it per head of population, then Canada is in first place as regards support for the reforms in Russia.

We agreed on one hour and 30 minutes. So, Mr. Presidential Press Secretary.

[Kostikov] Mr. President, we have already been working for more than an hour and a half. I think we have satisfied the majority of questioners. It is impossible to satisfy them all. A lady is standing with flowers. If you will allow her the final opportunity.

[Unidentified woman in auditorium] Boris Nikolayevich, today is a holiday, and I, on behalf of and on the instructions of all the journalists, male and female, who are here, would like to say: We love you, and that's why we ask you so many interesting questions.

[Yeltsin] Thank you.

[Woman] We congratulate you. Allow me to give you these flowers.

[Kostikov] Well, we did not get it wrong, Boris Nikolayevich. [applause, as Yeltsin receives flowers]

[Yeltsin] I also congratulate you all.

[Kostikov] Thank you for your work. Come and visit us here in the Presidential Press Center. I remind you once again that today we were working in the Presidential Press Center. Welcome, thank you and goodbye.

Decree on IZVESTIYA Property Cited

LD2408095992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] As you know, at a news conference at the Kremlin on 21 August, Russian President Boris Yeltsin promised to sign on 22 August instructions on the property of the newspaper IZVESTIYA. Today we received the text of those instructions, which says:

The State Committee of the Russian Federation for the Management of State Property is instructed to examine the question of assigning, according to the established procedure, the property of the IZVESTIYA publishing complex of the Soviet of People's Deputies of the USSR to its successor, the IZVESTIYA newspaper publishing complex."

Poltoranin on Subsidies to Mass Media

LD2208051592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Interview with Mikhail Nikifirovich Poltoranin, minister of press and mass media, by correspondent Vladimir Stanovskiy after Yeltsin news conference on 21 Aug; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Stanovskiy] How do you see the role of the press at this stage, in the second year of free Russia, as the saying goes, after the news conference by the president? How do you see the tasks in light of his address?

[Poltoranin] I think that the main task facing the press today is a consolidating role; nonetheless, we quarrelled a lot with each other in the democratic press, hammered many things out, and today society in Russia expects us to consolidate things, to explain things, to see what life is like, what reforms are like, where we are going, and to explain things objectively without sobs, without groans and shouts of "We're drowning! We're done for! We're dying!" But for that to happen, we must all have a good grip on the reforms that are under way today.

[Stanovskiy] And what does the press need so as not to drown, not to die? Will the ministry be supported somehow or will priority be given to it because in market conditions it is not that easy to keep your head above water? Not everybody can be a businessman.

[Poltoranin] Well, in the first place, the ministry is doing everything it can. You know that under a decree by the president on help for the mass media, under a decree by the president, the government issued a decision on its development or, developing that decree and under that decree, literally every month we receive several billion rubles and distribute this money among all of the mass media. So, magazines, newspapers, and television receive this money, live on these subsidies—and so no questions are raised here.

[Stanovskiy] That's to say—priority won't be given to anyone. But what about support out of sympathy—or will all receive it on equal conditions?

[Poltoranin] Everyone will receive it under equal conditions. All the more so since now there is not one ministry but also an additional two committees of the Supreme Soviet—the committee for the mass media and the committee for the budget and so forth. The sympathy of some lies in one place and of others elsewhere.

[Stanovskiy] Thank you.

Burbulis Interviewed on Reform, Coup Fears

PM2108114592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary to the Russian Federation president, by correspondent Yuriy Orlik; place and date not given: "Gennadiy Burbulis: Most Russians Reject Possibility of Return to Old Ways. State Secretary to the Russian Federation President Answers IZVESTIYA Correspondent Yuriy Orlik's Questions"]

[Text] [Orlik] We are talking on the anniversary of the collapse of the August putsch. Back then, after it had been routed, it had seemed at the victory rally, when hundreds of thousands of Muscovites came to the White House, that a new era was dawning and that the forces of reaction and totalitarianism would no longer be able to raise their heads. But a year has gone by, and we can hear it said that the victors have been vanquished. People are increasingly talking about the possibility of another putsch. But without tanks—a quiet, creeping putsch. How realistic is this threat? Are you convinced that the White House politicians and the president have as many defenders today as they had a year ago? Or, to broaden the question, what are the main political results of the year from August to August?

[Burbulis] How realistic is the threat of another putsch today? Or, in other words—how great are the resources of the revanchist forces in Russian society? There are many forecasts and predictions on this score. And people often use the world "putsch" to mean essentially two quite different things. A putsch as a one-shot move by reactionary forces against the organs of power with a view to overthrowing them by force—on the spur of the moment, so to speak. And a putsch as a process with no outward signs of conflict, a change of course that possibly retains all the attributes of power, structures, and even certain individuals. So, despite the recent galvanization of aggressive revanchist forces and their cynical disregard for legal forms of activity—whereby they are deliberately provoking the authorities into taking severe measures—I think that a putsch in the traditional sense of the word is unlikely. And the main obstacle to it is the majority of Russians, who reject the possibility of a return to the old ways. We must consider this attitude to be one of the most significant political results of the year.

As for the fears of a possible quiet putsch, a not immediately discernible revision of reform goals, an elastic repackaging of means, and a repositioning of the baseline—these are not groundless. The task of eradicating the basic structures of the totalitarian regime would be negated under the guise of protecting the interests of the population, restoring economic ties, and instilling order—these structures would be modified for the umpteenth time, preserving their basis. Certain structures are currently geared to just such a volte-face. And although I am convinced that even a quiet putsch is unlikely today, we must remain vigilant and not be complacent. Nor, incidentally, should we be excessively suspicious. The main thing is for all Russians to realize that the reforms being implemented by President Yeltsin and his comrades-in-arms are vitally necessary for Russians themselves. And they must join in the practical implementation of reform when they grasp and comprehend this. They should abandon the traditional approach of saying "they're carrying out reforms, let's wait and see what comes of it."

[Orlik] On what do you base your conviction that most Russians do not want a return to the past?

[Burbulis] This is confirmed by the numerous representative surveys done in many regions by independent sociological services. But other important factors are personal impressions and a personal feel for the mood prevailing in society. This mood is captured by the well known film director's phrase "we cannot live this way." The only people dreaming of reviving the old regime are desperate revanchists and ultracommunists for whom real life is beyond their comprehension. Russians can be said to be united in believing that a return to the past is impossible. They differ on what new things we need. This is the real difficulty and the real contradiction in our progress. This today is the main field for a national all-Russian debate. What kind, what class of reforms does Russia need, and how consistently and at what speed should they be implemented? There is a debate about this.

[Orlik] In conversation with Vladimir Pozner you called the current stage of society's development a transitional stage. This is too vague a description. Could you be more precise? A transition from what to what? Is the transition affecting—or, rather, has it already affected—the basic foundations of society? Walesa says bluntly that Poland will have to move from socialism to capitalism. Where are we going from socialism?

[Burbulis] We will never be able to precisely answer the question of what type and content of reform Russia needs if we do not provide a full description of the society which we are leaving behind. We are leaving behind a totalitarian system in which the state was an omnipotent monopolist that invaded all spheres of the life of both society and the individual. And the CPSU was the full-fledged state structure which ensured the functioning of this all-suppressing totalitarian system.

This totalitarian state had its foundations—the monopoly-departmental militarized economy. They fed off each other. They had their own specific structures and instruments of power. For instance—Soviet law, which we associate with the absence of rights for citizens and the omnipotence of officials. We need only recall telephone law, the sinister image of the scrambler device, and Kremlin and government communications systems. The people who ruled this state and who handed out punishments or pardons were those with the most important telephones.

This state had one of the cheapest labor forces in the world economic system. And we can talk of a specific mechanism by which this state exploited its own people.

This state pursued a corresponding international policy—a policy of repression, cold war, and military confrontation.

It had its own ideology, which speculated by promising everybody happiness attained through violation of their interests and rights.

I think that these indications of the system are enough in order to understand what we are leaving behind. And it should be said that nobody—even the most desperate or intelligent group of individuals—would ever have succeeded in destroying this type of state through their own personal efforts. It was a question of the objective combination of two factors—the exhaustion of Soviet communist totalitarianism, the inevitability of its collapse, and the concomitant processes of democratization and reform which had begun, not least under the pressure of these circumstances. The reformers merely accelerated the inevitable.

Our aim is to create a state and society based on generally accepted democratic values. These are well known—guaranteed political freedoms, human rights protected in law (including ensuring the conditions for the formation of an "economic citizen"), effective presidential power, an effective parliamentary system, a full-fledged judiciary, ideological pluralism, a multiparty system, and, ultimately, the creation of a genuinely civil society.

What has been accomplished? We have embarked on the substantial liberalization of economic relations. Society is coming more and more to view land as an item of property and possession. Privatization of the means of production has begun. A financial and credit system has started to operate, albeit with some holdups. Money is becoming money, and people now want to earn it. People are striving to set up their own businesses. A stratum of entrepreneurs is taking shape.

The reforms are proceeding slowly and with difficulty—I agree. But a market for goods and services cannot appear overnight. Economic structures have enormous inertia. The hope that tomorrow everything will be different—we only have to want it to happen—is naive and misleading. This is one of the myths of reform—romantic but unforgivable for us.

[Orlik] Of course, the market will not appear immediately. It will take time to implement fundamental transformations. But what is worrying is that we constantly hear Russia's current leaders asking us to be patient for a just little longer—six months, a year, or two years—and things will be easier. But time has gone by and people are becoming convinced that the promised improvement has not materialized. There is a growing and very formidable distrust of the Russian leadership and the president. Is this sensed "on high"? And how do you explain the mistaken forecasts? Did they underestimate the strength of the old system's resistance? Was society not ready for radical reforms? Did the reformers themselves miscalculate?

[Burbulis] When a politician says that things will soon improve, everyone expects prices to fall, store shelves to be full, wages to rise, and hospitals, transportation, and so forth to work better. These are natural expectations. But, at the same time, politicians mean something else by "success"—that it has been possible to avoid major social upheaval, for instance. Or they know that it has been possible to place investments successfully or to win financial support. Even though the practical economic impact of these measures will not be felt immediately. In general I believe that this is not a question of cunning, much less of deception. But I do not rule out a period of social therapy. The main thing is that the processes taking place in society are exceptionally complex. It is sometimes simply impossible to predict in detail what result they will have. The heavy burden of the past is slowing us down. Of course, we need to strive for accurate forecasts. But it would be a mistake to view the plan for transformations worked out at the top—in the Kremlin or in our "White House"—as the only means of escape, to hand it down, and implement it severely and forcibly. Were we to do so we would merely split society for the umpteenth time into those who had thought up the reforms and those to whom they directly applied. What we need here is joint creativity. To tell Pskov to do the same as Kaliningrad, or Yaroslavl to do the same as Khabarovsk would be to ruin things.

[Orlik] The August revolution was a Moscow revolution. The provinces were rather indifferent observers of what was happening outside the White House. Moreover, they were prepared to accept the State Committee for the State of Emergency. And even now they tend to be rather conservative. Are you not afraid that the reforms will get bogged down in the boundless expanses of Russia?

[Burbulis] I would refrain from making that general assessment of the provinces' behavior. When I said that most Russians support the course of reforming society, I was naturally including those who live in the "Russian expanses." State employees, workers in organs of local power and administration—those on whom the implementation of privatization, the development of enterprise and private farming, the creation of an effective tax service, and so forth depend—they are a different matter. This sphere includes almost equal numbers of sincere supporters and reformers and of those who are opposing reform in the most desperate fashion and striving to preserve the past. The success of the transformations we are implementing will largely depend on whether we are able to overcome and smash this quiet sabotage. You can adopt the finest laws, presidential decrees, and government resolutions, but if organs of power and the apparatus are strewn with people who oppose the changes heart and soul, then you can be sure that they will find a way to ruin things.

Or take another example. All heads of administration are appointed by the president. And in this sense they should unconditionally carry out his will and implement his course. But what is actually happening? There is Nizhniy Novgorod, there is Boris Nemtsov—a creative and questing individual who has succeeded in involving most of the population in the implementation of reform, and in giving the reforms a Nizhniy Novgorod flavor. But how many administration heads do we have who are only able to complain about the government and the higher authorities?

[Orlik] Your post—that of state secretary—is new to our political structure. You have been given a wide range of tasks. Which are the most important? Can you be described as one of the main people drawing up the strategy for the reform of society? Hasn't Burbulis been relegated to secondary roles of late, particularly because of the creation of the Security Council? Could you describe the alignment of forces in the president's immediate entourage?

[Burbulis] There has been a mass of exaggeration in the conjecture regarding the influence exerted on the president by various people or structures. I think that it is more correct, tactful, and fitting to talk about real contributions to the course of reform and about influence over the process of transformations rather than to use the usual pro-Soviet terminology to talk about who has been advanced, who has been removed, and the kind of configuration now emerging here.

I think that each of us influences the course of reform as far as he is capable of doing so. That is dependent on a person's expertise, skill, and abilities. What is important is whether they accord with the level and scale of the tasks being performed at each specific stage. If anyone has the impression that the role of Burbulis personally is changing, then, regardless of how reliable these opinions are, this should not upset anyone or, on the other hand, give them added delight. The structures of authority are fairly mobile. There is no personal tragedy in changing your range of duties. You must understand one thing. In the top echelons of Russian authority there are both those who see reforms as the radical, essential reorganization of the life of society and those who invest them with a conformist elastic purpose, not always aware that this may mean a loss of course. I am absolutely convinced that the president, while remaining the head of reform, should ensure the balance of political and professional forces today. Although not everyone understands that. And it is not to everyone's liking.

[Orlik] Which political force today, in your view, poses the greatest danger to the present regime? Is it possible—and under what circumstances—that the ruling team will be replaced, and will that mean a change of course?

[Burbulis] In my view, the political groupings on the surface today do not reflect the sentiments and state of most of the population. They represent as it were two strata of society that are fairly isolated from one another. You cannot talk of any broad social base behind the current political parties, associations, and movements. People are "tired of politics" and are focused on practical questions—how to survive and fit into the inevitable change in property relations. They feel understandable mistrust of rally-based actions, whoever organizes them. When the representatives of these political groupings speak on behalf of the people, they are clearly exaggerating their own influence.

Who presents the greatest danger to the course being pursued by the authorities? Perhaps the devotees of national-Bolshevism. They are aggressive and intolerant, and most fully display Bolshevik repressive consciousness and behavior. It is they who describe constitutional organs of power as "occupiers" and insult the president. Political hooliganism is a sign not of strength, but of weakness.

At the same time the traditional idea of politically active forces needs to be adjusted today. Take directors, who are striving to find their niche in the reforms and are creating their own political structures. Entrepreneurs aspire to their share of authority. The president has already shown that the doors of power are open to convinced professionals, to those with greater expertise and greater ability than current Cabinet members. We are not afraid of sharing power and we reject the reproaches regarding some kind of separatism. Although we have not totally succeeded in establishing stable dialogue with all structures interested in reform—and this is a necessary condition for stability in society. There are plenty of reserves here. The general logic is this. In our position it would be inadmissible to cede power to those who shout loudly that they will set everything to rights and lead everyone in the right direction. But nor do we have any intention of hanging onto power, puffing up our cheeks and stretching our necks in a boastful pose. The incumbent authorities can be reproached for many things, apart from lack of a sense of responsibility for the future of Russia.

[Orlik] One of the complaints directed at the new leadership is that a second nomenklatura echelon has come to power, the same old Communists who have merely renounced their membership of the CPSU. You are a philosopher by education. Nietzsche said that a philosopher acquires and abandons convictions. But that is a difficult, painful, and lengthy process. I am troubled by the ease and rapidity with which yesterday's Communists have become anticommunists. Isn't the political situation taking its toll here? How did you personally abandon your old views?

[Burbulis] The doubt as to the reliability of those people who swore loyalty to one person and are now serving another is a natural one. But I personally have not changed my convictions. I think that many of the people with whom I am now working could say the same thing about themselves. It is a question of convictions linked with basic human values and ideals. The sum total of the views that determine your actions and, attitude to people, the world, the past, and the future. It is a question of convictions that develop into life principles and stable rules of behavior. In this respect I have not changed my convictions. I can say that anywhere at the top of my voice. I am sure that those people who remember me from my student years, my time in the Army, and my work in the philosophy department, whoever they are—friends or enemies—will not be able to refute what I have said.

It is a different matter that for an inadmissibly long time I harbored the illusion that these convictions associated with man's honor and dignity, his natural right to freedom and a full life could be fully realized within the framework of the Soviet communist system. That it could be transformed, reformed from within. I cannot forgive myself for harboring the illusion of reform within the communist system. There is no danger that tomorrow I and people like me may effect an ideological turnabout. This irritates our aggressive opponents. For my part, I categorically refuse to unequivocally reproach those people who still selflessly advocate communist, Soviet views and continue to stoically believe in communist ideas. Although I see that there are plenty of political cynics among those who cling to the red banners today.

[Orlik] in this context is there any logic in your representing the president in the Constitutional Court?

[Burbulis] It is logical from both the official and the human viewpoint. I can admit that I constantly feel grief and awareness of guilt. Why was Russia the country that had to drain the cup of communism to the dregs? Why are people who dispute the constitutionality of the president's decrees today reluctant to acknowledge that violence went hand in hand with the communist system from birth to death? Although that is obvious to most Russians. It is a good thing that it has proved possible to avoid ballyhoo over the trial. It is not so much an investigation into the sides' petitions as a collective study and bitter understanding of our agonizing history. An analysis of and break with the past. That too can be ranked among the important political results of the past year.

[Orlik] Now a question that seemingly does not relate to the topic of our discussion. But I cannot help but ask it. One of the undoubted gains of the post-August period is the free press. Independent publications have emerged. A law on the mass media has been adopted guaranteeing freedom of speech. At the same time we can all see the Supreme Soviet's attempts—despite the law that it has adopted—to establish tight control over the mass media and render them tame and obedient. That is not only an infringement of journalists' rights. Without a free press and open expression of views and opinions there can be no free society or democracy. You would have thought this was obvious. But it must be reiterated. The parliament does not hear us. What about the executive?

[Burbulis] You know, I am not alarmed by the fact that parliament is trying to bring the press to heel. I am alarmed by the way that the Supreme Soviet is doing this—resolutely and peremptorily. The temptation to have tame, docile mass media is a great and tenacious one. This is in the genes, in the blood. But you yourself admit that another trend emerged with IZVESTIYA. The president took a clear, definite position. Journalists behaved with solidarity. A group of Russian deputies is ready to defend IZVESTIYA's right to independent status in the Constitutional Court.

This only confirms our conclusion. There are people in Russia's top organs of power who would like to return to the old ways and those who are striving to implement a real reformist line. We will not exaggerate the strength of the former and belittle the capabilities of the latter. I am convinced that the revival of Russia is only possible on the basis of principles of democracy.

On Events of Past Year, Objectives

OW2208161992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1514 GMT 22 Aug 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The time that has passed since the August events of 1991 has shown that the road to freedom must be paved by all Russian citizens and that no miracles will help us out, the Russian president's State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis told IF [INTERFAX] correspondent Boris Grishchenko in an exclusive interview. He said that in charge of the economic reform is not only Boris Yeltsin, but all Russian citizens and that this work will be done by several generations.

Highlighting the president's position, Burbulis said that being the leader of the reform, the president is expected to balance all forces involved in it. This is the drama of our time, he said. The concept of the reform may get devaluated the way the word "perestroika" did. We cannot just stand still in naive expectation of results.

Speaking about the past year's outlays, Burbulis named excessive politization of society. Parties appear quicker than the social groups they represent. He said he was against the monopoly right of the political milieux or seemingly active sections of the population to speak on behalf of Russia. Democracy and democrat are neither an honorary title nor a life-long post, he remarked. Democracy, he continued, is a subtle way of running the affairs of society in the interests of the majority.

The past 12 months, said Burbulis, have filled my heart with optimism and with the feeling of better times ahead. He said that one should be aware of all the difficulties and not fall into pessimism. "The winners' energy released last August is the main promoter of the newly-born Russian democracy," said Gennadiy Burbulis.

No Serious Incidents at Coup Anniversary Events

LD2108161692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1231 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Zharkov]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—The anniversary celebrations marking the failure of the August coup last year kept Moscow police more busy than on usual days, ITAR-TASS was told by Moscow's duty police officer. It is understandable: Large concentrations of people at night time, naturally, exacerbate the situation in the city, require additional forces. However, he said, no serious incidents took place during the celebrations, and the rally, the procession and the prayer passed calmly.

At the same time, over the past twenty four hours three murders were reported in Moscow. At a hostel of the Metro Construction Association one of the cronies knifed to death his partner, in one of the flats a drinking bout left two dead bodies: male and female. Police is looking for the murderer. The most horrendous case, however, is the murder by a drunken son of his mother.

The duty officer said weapons were confiscated, in particular, near the Kiev railway station a serviceman was found to have hand grenades, while a grenade launcher was confiscated from a young man.

On three occasions police had to fire: A special crack unit fired four times into the air when the manager of a privately-owned cafe, blackmailed by four unidentified gunmen, called police. The criminals were detained. In another case, two soldiers commandeered a Lada passenger car and resisted arrest trying to push the traffic police car into a ditch. A policeman fired at the car, hitting the wheel and wounding one of the soldiers in a thigh.

Three people were killed and 12 injured in 13 road accidents. Thirty three burglaries were reported through the night.

Moscow Memorial to August Coup Heroes Unveiled

LD2108212792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1021 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 21 Aug—A memorial to the three young Muscovites who were tragically killed during the events of last August was unveiled at the capital's Vagankov cemetery today. [passage omitted]

The memorial meeting was honored by the presence of Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy; Yegor Gaydar, acting prime minister of the Russian Government; Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary in the president's office; Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov; Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov; and the heads of diplomatic missions accredited in the capital.

Later, at a ceremony held at Moscow city hall, the relatives of Komar, Usov, and Krichevskiy were presented with checks for $3,500. The checks were presented by (?Sasson Kakshuri), principal organizer of the Kremlin Cup tennis tournament, on behalf of the IBM-ATP tour, a charitable fund.

Mayor Luzhkov noted that the city administration is trying to do what is necessary to preserve the memory of those who died during the August events and to soften the blow for the relatives.

Vice President Rutskoy Interviewed on Role

MK2108143192 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 34, 23 Aug 92 (Signed to Press 18 Aug 92) p 11

[Interview with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by Tatyana Yakhlakova under the "Leaders" rubric; place and date not given: "Aleksandr Rutskoy. Russian Vice President Talks to MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI Observer Tatyana Yakhova"—first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] At the time, Boris Yeltsin made the right choice: the vice presidential candidate brought the candidate for the presidency a lot of votes from the Army, unorthodox communists, and simply from an alarmed society. They won, and the first political "duet" at the peak of Russian authority stood the test set by August 1991.

Then there was a "cooling." Rutskoy's views, which he made no effort to conceal, clearly became unsuitable. Society once again eagerly listened to the reformers' promises, and blunt hints were directed at the "dissident" vice president: Was it not time to resign? Throughout the entire winter, Rutskoy was the political target most fired at. Moreover, he himself jumped into the line of fire, but, to give credit where it is due, he took any blow with dignity.

Today, the ratings of the government's critics are rising. Although nobody but themselves will say whether it is for the good. With the enthusiasm of a school teacher in love with his work, military pilot Aleksandr Rutskoy sketches plans and graphs illustrating his understanding of land reform. By the end of the interview, there are five broken pencils and a dozen used sheets of paper on the vice president's desk. The end of reform is nowhere to be seen. Or is it the beginning that is out of view?

[MN] Don't you feel alone on the state Olympus?

[Rutskoy] I am a regular, normal guy, reacting angrily to critical situations. But I have many friends who support me. I have not entered into dispute with either the president or the government—I have criticized and continue to criticize only because everything is going haywire.

[MN] However, after your trip to Siberia the newspapers wrote that Boris Yeltsin had stopped greeting you.

[Rutskoy] The article was called "Military Pilot's Siberian Storm"...

[MN] There wasn't just one article: Everybody was surprised that the vice president was speaking out of sync with the president. Have relations between you returned to normal?

[Rutskoy] We maintain normal working relations. Recently, I would even say that these relations have been good. As for the winter episode... Take PRAVDA for 8 February—at that time, not one newspaper apart from PRAVDA would publish articles on me. I was not mistaken on a single point of the forecast I wrote detailing what would happen if we took the path proposed by the government.

[MN] So, you still think that it is necessary to introduce an economic state of emergency?

[Rutskoy] And right away! Commodity turnover has fallen by 40 percent, production by 30, national income by 18, and agricultural production by 27 percent. Are you telling me this isn't an emergency situation? We would need eight years now just to get back to 1990's level.

[MN] A state of emergency requires a stringent implementation system. Not long ago, I was with you at a conference on the harvest. I'm sorry, but somehow it did not inspire confidence that the ministries and departments would work any better under the conditions of a state of emergency.

[Rutskoy] It could not have done. Did you hear the speech by the deputy minister for fuel and energy? Two million tonnes of fuel had been pilfered from him, so he asks to purchase it abroad. And what about the salt situation? Production, they say, has fallen by 50 percent in six months. So what next? Yermakov writes to Yeltsin, Yeltsin writes to Gaydar, Gaydar to Anisimov, Anisimov to Kiselev, Kiselev to Bakhtin... Twenty-one dispatches, and no salt. Or take the resolution by the government and the Supreme Soviet on the agricultural sector. One set of instructions runs directly counter to another...

[MN] But you are the chief "commander" for agriculture...

[Rutskoy] Wrong. I am not responsible for agriculture—that is what the Ministry of Agriculture is for. I am responsible for reform. The package of documents on the land bank—that is my work.

[MN] But nevertheless, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, you are the state's second-in-command. I am an ordinary Russian citizen who looks to the current leadership with hope. And you are complaining to me about "bad" ministers, as if you can do nothing about them.

[Rutskoy] I can do nothing. It only seems as if the vice president has an ultra-important post. Take a look at the Constitution. The vice president is just an aide-de-camp. He carries out the president's instructions, and that's all. I hope Boris Nikolayevich has no complaints about me in this sense: My 25 years in the Army taught me that an order has to be carried out. And for me, the president's instructions are just such an order.

[MN] Does this mean that you are not free to make decisions?

[Rutskoy] Do not confuse different things. I make decisions autonomously, even when I am carrying out the president's orders. He sets the task, I decide how to carry it out. The military have an excellent formula which civilians do not use for some reason. There are five conditions which have to be observed in order for something to succeed. First, weigh up the task: You have to have a clear idea of how to carry it out. Second, evaluate the situation: that is, look at all your options. Then make a decision. Finally, you need an implementation and monitoring system. If our ministers and departments learned how to follow these conditions, the reform would run like clockwork. But you know, whenever I talk about this, I am immediately branded antimarket and antidemocratic...

[MN] And this is not so?

[Rutskoy] I am both an advocate of the market and a democrat. I just happen to believe that you have to think first, and then act. If a pilot were to do things the other way around, he would simply crash into something. It is the same in any other business. If annual losses in agriculture amount to between 45 and 52 percent, what should be the first stage in the reform? Probably, to prevent these losses: proper storage, processing, and delivery to the consumer. If losses could be lowered by 30 percent, then the area of land being cultivated would shrink by the same 30 percent. And this means a cut in fuel, energy, technological, and human resources, and the release of funds for developing the infrastructure and the social sphere.

But what is happening now? The construction of 130 food industry enterprises has been put on hold, and 169 are working on a "stop-start, stop-start" cycle. Over 2,500 are in need of reconstruction...

[MN] When you, a military man, were "cast" into agriculture, many saw this as "exile." However, it is as if you have discovered a personal interest in this matter.

[Rutskoy] I like to work, do you see? When dealing with reform, it is necessary to be clear about the concept and priorities, and to evaluate the options. I took a pencil and drew up a list of all the agrarian reforms in Russia, starting with the abolition of serfdom, and I tried to work out where and why the mechanism was going wrong. And I will say this to you. We disbanded Gosplan [State Planning Committee] and Gossnab [State Committee for Material and Technical Supply]—the planning and distribution organs. But any actual market state has these organs, only they come under a different name. It is imperative to calculate production output and to work out a policy of guaranteed resource supply. This is particularly important in the current transition phase, when society is moving from total centralization toward a market.

[MN] But you know, they distributed things for 70 years, and still nothing hung together.

[Rutskoy] Nothing hung together because 20 bases stood between the producer and the consumer. And on each base there was a person, and each person had a family, and each family had friends... The system worked on bribes. Whereas I am proposing a direct link: from the producer to the consumer.

[MN] They tried that too, but bases sprang up between them all by themselves.

[Rutskoy] This will not happen if there is a proper processing system for every five or six farms. What sense was there in creating 152,000 private farms? To set up profitable commodity production under today's prices, every private farmer needs to have a mininmum of 20 to 30 million rubles. Multiply that by 152,000 and you get 4.5 trillion. Where will the government get this kind of money? Only 2 percent of private farms—that is, 3,000—are equipped more or less adequately. The remaining 149,000 are just playing around—but they are forced to do so, because they have nothing. But at the same time, the land on these farms has been taken away from those which were producing produce.

The priorities should have been defined. A kind of experiment was done on people. Do you think that you have started to live better?

[MN] I would say that I have begun to live better than in December last year, when the stores were absolutely empty.

[Rutskoy] It is cynical to say that stores are stocked with something when the overwhelming majority of the population cannot buy this "something." It was wrong to begin the reform with price liberalization when 99.9 percent of property belongs to the state. Today, everybody is having to think again, but remember how they laid into Rutskoy: he is not even an economist, he does not even have that kind of intellectual background... My intellect is quite sound thank you, and so is my sense of humor.

And you know, something very strange is happening. Deputies are coming back from their constituencies with inspiring stories about how the people support the reforms. When I go traveling, the people have nothing but abuse for these reforms. But you know, no matter who is out and about—be it Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, or Rutskoy—people always talk about the government. I, as vice president, do not want to answer for this government.

[MN] Your status is that of the president's "right hand," but today you front a serious opposition group—the "Civil Union" bloc. As far as I know, it intends to present a new lineup for the Cabinet of Ministers by this fall. And they say that, if the president does not agree to this changeover, the question of his resignation could be raised. How far are you prepared to go in these demands?

[Rutskoy] Civil Union was set up to elaborate a general reform ideology. As for resignations and government reshuffles—these questions have not been and are not being examined by the Union.

[MN] But will a new government lineup be presented?

[Rutskoy] I will say this: Today's government was unable to forecast the situation. Otherwise, how did a situation in our country arise where there is too little "ready cash" to pay pensions and wages, so that we are forced to send 60 percent of state enterprises on leave? Therefore, the people who are drawing up new, practicable reform programs at the moment are prepared to replace those who are in no state to do this. But we will not set up any kind of "shadow" cabinet: We do not intend to force the president into retirement. Could a vice president really afford to undertake such actions?

[MN] But that is why the opposition stance you have adopted is attracting attention.

[Rutskoy] Listen, I am 44 years old. I would happily work alongside Boris Nikolayevich for two terms. By that time I will be 53. That is still quite young for a politician. And then, maybe, I will think about presenting my own candidacy for president. As for the government, I am prepared to work with it too, but on condition that it starts measuring its steps.

[MN] Let us turn to the Civil Union. The impression is that you did not find a political foothold immediately. We could say that the more patriotic forces were relying on you heavily...

[Rutskoy] I do not know which forces you are talking about, but have a read of the newspaper DEN, and look at just how they are relying on Rutskoy.

[MN] But don't you think that DEN's ideology could prove stronger than Civil Union's, and that "genuine patriots" will be able to accede to power on your shoulders?

[Rutskoy] In the reform period, Russia has always been faced with a choice: to follow the reformists, that is the centrists, or to follow the radicals—on the extreme left or the extreme right. I very much hope that this time people will follow the centrists, because we already know where the other paths lead. But liberal reforms need strong authority.

[MN] Scare-stories about putsches, creeping coups d'etat, and dictatorships... Can you predict how events will develop?

[Rutskoy] Volskiy and I have long been designated the new "putschists" [gekachepisty]. But here I will say this. Reform strategy has been defined correctly. But from the viewpoint of consistency the government does not stand up to criticism, thus strengthening the extreme left-wing and extreme right-wing forces. Both see just one way to resolve problems—by overthrowing the authorities. Politicization in society is becoming explosive. God grant that it does not turn into a disaster.

Working Group Meets on Council of Ministers Law

LD2108204292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1944 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—A meeting of a working group on preparation of a draft law on the Council of Ministers was held at the Russian White House here today. The group was created by the Russian president and the Russian parliament chairman.

Representatives of the government and the committee came to an agreement on major issues, head of the Supreme Soviet committee on legislation Mikhail Mityukov told ITAR-TASS.

"We have come to a conclusion the government should be under control of supreme representative power bodies, and the form of this control is established by the spirit and the letter of the Constitution," he said.

In the first half of September the parliamentary and governmental working group will convene for the final meeting and then submit the draft law on the Council of Ministers to the subjects of legislative initiative—the president and the Supreme Soviet Presidium—so that they together submit it to the parliament for consideration.

Issue of Privatization Vouchers Starts 1 Oct

LD2108124392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1050 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—The distribution of privatisation vouchers among Russian citizens will begin on October 1. Maksim Boyko, a spokesman for the Russian Committee for Property, told ITAR-TASS that every citizen of the Federation, irrespective of his age, place of residence and employment, as well as the income level will receive a voucher with one and the same nominal value—10,000 roubles. Thus, all the citizens will have equal starting opportunities.

An owner of the voucher can do whatever he pleases with it. He can buy shares of an enterprise, which is subject to privatisation. Workers of enterprises will be able to buy their shares on easy terms. One shall be able to exchange his voucher for the shares of an investment fund. Boyko believes such funds are a kind of insurance for investors. Those who acquire shares of the investment fund and not those of an enterprise will be in a privileged position: If the enterprise goes bankrupt, the investor will also sustain a loss. The fund purchases shares of many enterprises, and the probability of its bankruptcy is far smaller. This is why in this case the interests of the voucher seller will be better protected. In addition, the fund will distribute its dividends among its investors. Those who do not want to invest their privatisation vouchers will be able to sell them at their market value.

The vouchers will be distributed through local branches of the savings bank according to the lists, which are being prepared by local authorities. According to Boyko, the distribution will begin on October 1, but one will be able to make use of them, starting from January-February, next year. So, everybody will have enough time to receive the vouchers.

Privatisation vouchers will ensure for every citizen the right to a corresponding share of the former state property and enable almost everybody to participate in the reform, Boyko said.

Chubays Discusses Privatization Checks

LD2408090792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 21 Aug 92

[News conference by Vice Premier Anatoliy Borisovich Chubays and members of the Russian State Committee for Property Management at the committee's venue in Moscow on 21 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] A news conference by leaders of the Russian Federation State Committee for Property Management took place at the site of the committee meeting on 21 August. It was the committee's first news conference since the Russian president's speech announcing the distribution of privatization checks to the population. It is the state property committee that has been entrusted with implementing this program.

[Chubays] As you know, the speech by the Russian president marked the start of a program of popular privatization that is unprecedented and unique in scale, nature, and depth. One can say without exaggeration that there has never been anything like this program anywhere in the world from the point of view of the number of people who will be involved in it and the volume of transformations that will be effected.

Naturally, we are making use of the experience of other countries in developing this program. In the first place, I would like to mention the experience of Czechoslovakia. At the same time, I am absolutely convinced that the volume, complicated nature, and scale of the tasks we are beginning to tackle are unique.

You already know that in accordance with the decree signed by the president every citizen of Russia is to receive a personal privatization check of up to 10,000 rubles [R]. I would like to begin our news conference by demonstrating a model of this privatization check.

A document like this will be received by every citizen of Russia between 1 October and 31 December of this year. This document gives every citizen of Russia the right to obtain property at a nominal price of R10,000. It is very important to note that in essence this refers to the old prices, in old money, since, as you know very well, the assessment of value in Russia is carried out according to residual value, which in fact means the recorded prices according to data of the latest recorded balance, in effect, according to data many years old. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

The workers in enterprises that are being privatized are to have the opportunity to use their checks, at the nominal price without competition or auction, to acquire shares in their own enterprise. Depending on what version of privatization they choose, the amount of shares can vary. That is the first direction, the first possibility, for using privatization checks.

The second possibility for using them is connected with participation in auctions, by acquiring property at auctions that will be held. These will be auctions to sell stocks in enterprises that are to be turned into joint-stock companies. We plan to mainly start organizing these auctions next year. That is the second possibility: obtaining property at auctions for the sale of stock.

The third possibility is connected with the use of privatization checks via a system of investment funds. At present one of the central areas of our work is to promote the creation and appearance in the country of hundreds and thousands of investment funds whose main aim will be to work with the citizens' privatization checks. We are proceeding on the basis that investment funds will generally work on a private basis. They should arise on the basis of the interest and professionalism of their founders and creators. Our functions are to provide normative support, legislative support, and organizational help with the establishment and operational development of this system. Thus, the investment fund is the third possibility for using the checks. This is a possibility mainly for those people who are not very well acquainted with the niceties of the functioning of the market and simply would like to make use of their privatization checks safely and obtain real income from them.

Finally, there is the fourth and most simple possibility: the possibility of simply selling one's privatization checks. I would point out to you that we have deliberately removed any restrictions or prohibitions on this procedure. Every citizen, every owner of a privatization check, can sell it to any other citizen. There are no restrictions or prohibitions here. The price at which it will be sold will be the market price. The most important thing that we are doing here is to ensure a whole range of measures, which I spoke about earlier, aimed at raising the price the check actually fetches on the open market.

From 1 October to 31 December each citizen of Russia will receive a check which can be used in one of the ways I have mentioned.

You know very well that in order for this check to really work, it is necessary to provide property which will eventually be obtained for this check. Therefore, the second part of the whole popular privatization program is the program of massive transfer of state enterprises to joint-stock status. In accordance with presidential decree No. 721, thousands of Russian enterprises, including some of the largest enterprises and unique enterprises, in various industries from machine-building to transport, have already begun work on changing into joint-stock companies.

At each enterprise a privatization commission has been established. They are studying three variants of privatization and will choose the variant that is most suitable to that particular collective. They are preparing privatization plans and preparing to found a joint-stock company and to receive the benefits provided by the law. This work has been strictly synchronized with the work on privatization checks. We are guided by the same timescale. By the end of this year the program of mass transfer to joint-stock status should be completed. That means we will be creating a firm foundation for making irreversible not only the process of privatization in Russia but also all economic reforms in general.

By the start of next year we will have 6,000 to 7,000 joint-stock enterprises, in which tens of millions of Russian citizens will have their own share of ownership. By so doing we will be creating a realistic economic and political basis for progress. Moving forward from this basis, next year, in 1993, we are aiming at further massive development of the whole privatization process. This development will be effected on the purchase side by citizens' privatization checks, by the personal funds of those who have such funds and are prepared to put them into privatization, and by what is no less important for us—the funds of foreign investors.

I would particularly like to stress this aspect of the matter, since it is important for foreign investors to know that the train has already started, that the clock has already been started, that thousands of enterprises have already prepared privatization schemes, and that these schemes, in the near future, in accordance with the timetable that I have already mentioned, will move on from the level of schemes to the state of real life and real actions.

Therefore, it is extremely important for all those who are prepared in principle to invest money in Russia to move swiftly. Unfortunately, economic life acts on the principle that those who are not on time are too late. Therefore, those foreign investors who are ready to invest funds should now become very actively involved in this process and study the specific features of the enterprises in which they are interested.

We consider that this whole block of measures I have mentioned will, in essence, be the central component of the economic reform in Russia in the second half of this year. We are ready to reply to any questions you may like to ask about this.

[Unidentified announcer] Will there be any place for cash as well as checks in the sale of shares in state enterprises? Which will be given priority?

[Chubays] During the sale of shares in state enterprises there will definitely be a place for both checks and cash. We are introducing rules stipulating that at least 35 percent of the payments should be made in the form of privatization checks. The reason for this rule is to increase the weight of the privatization checks in some way. Speaking in economic terms, this means we are simply increasing the market rate for the checks. All those who wish to take part in the auctions are obliged to make at least 35 percent of the payments with privatization checks. This will increase the demand and thus increase the price for all of those who simply intend to sell their privatization checks.

[Announcer] Foreign journalists are most concerned about two questions: How will a peasant woman know what enterprise to invest her money in, and how are foreign investors to be attracted to this privatization process?

[Chubays] [Passage omitted on peasant women being able to sell checks; competition will ensure fair price] To ensure that the process of introducing joint-stock status, which we are talking about today, really makes it possible to attract foreign investors, we must radically review the whole way we organize things to attract foreign investors to this process. We are preparing a governmental decision that should set out these new ideas.

The essence of these ideas is, in the first place, that the property owner and, consequently, the seller of the property is not the Ministry of Economy and not the Ministry of Industry but the bodies that the law stipulates should handle this—the property committees and the funds. Second, it stipulates that the same general sales rules should operate for the foreign investor as for the domestic investor and that these rules are those set out in existing Russian legislation—the new edition of the law on privatization, the privatization program, and the presidential decree on forming joint-stock enterprises.

Third—and this is very important—we are convinced that the flow of foreign investors should be decentralized, if one can put it that way. It should be directed away from Moscow offices, and directed primarily to those regions, to those enterprises, and to those local bodies of property management in which foreign investors are interested. We must get away from the position in which every investor must go to 10 or 15 ministries in Moscow to get a decision. We must reach a position in which the decision is made right then in the most efficient and most decentralized way.

We are preparing a whole complex of program measures to provide information to foreign investors. A computerized data base will be compiled containing key indices about the enterprises to be privatized. We will flesh out this data base with the most practical information, such as the addresses, telephone numbers, and names of those people who should be approached. This data base will be distributed via the system of Russian trade missions throughout the world. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] If any citizens do not use their checks by the end of 1993, they become invalid and will be annulled. The check's period of validity is inscribed on the check.

Central Bank Head Urges Revision of Reform Plan

LD2108125292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1027 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington August 21 TASS—Acting Chairman of the Russian Central Bank Viktor Geraschenko said it was necessary to revise a number of key provisions of the Russian reform economic programme endorsed by the International Monetary Fund in an interview with the "WASHINGTON POST" newspaper published on Friday [21 August].

The newspaper pointed out that Geraschenko's statement was the first acknowledgement by a high-ranking Russian official that the country is not able to carry out its commitments to the IMF without unacceptable social consequences.

Geraschenko primarily criticised a tough credit and monetary policy which had been carried out in Russia sanctioned by the IMF. He pointed out that many state-run enterprises had been brought to the verge of bankruptcy and further implementation of this tough policy may lead to a collapse of the Russian industrial basis.

Geraschenko pointed out that the country is faced with a sharp "liquidity crisis" which can undermine the whole banking system of the state. According to Geraschenko, the crisis was caused by measures to liquidate an excess of monetary circulation and by the fact that soaring prices had brought about the shortage of cash money with simultaneous toughening of credit and monetary policy.

"Sometimes it seems to me that we have not only removed the "monetary porch" but the whole "roof" altogether," the newspaper quoted Geraschenko as saying.

Geraschenko pointed out that during the forthcoming visit of IMF representatives to Moscow he intends to obtain the IMF consent to ease the credit and monetary policy. Previously, the Russian Government took the advice of the IMF to limit the total amount of credits, provided by the Bank of Russia to state-run enterprises, to 700 billion roubles in the last six months of 1992.

"We are sure to discuss this problem. We believe the amount is not enough," Geraschenko said.

He pointed out that some steps by the Russian Government were obviously taken without considering present day realities. For example, he mentioned a promise to make the rouble convertible by July 1, 1992.

"At first you proclaim your goal and afterwards create an impression that it has been achieved merely because it was announced," Geraschenko said. "Later on we find out that the king was naked," Geraschenko added quoting a famous fairy-tale.

Shumeyko Favors Mercantilism on Japanese Model

OW2108190692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] First Russian Governmental Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko considers it necessary to pursue the same kind of policy in Russia which the Japanese pursued in the post war years resulting not only in the development of Japan's own industry within a decade, but also in the development of a market unaided by foreign industry.

In an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX] on Friday [21 August], Shumeyko drew attention to the negligible amount of foreign investment of no more (he quoted) than $1 bn [billion] in the country's economy over the last two years.

Shumeyko said that the government had "only just" passed a decision one month ago to supplement open credit with 150 bn. rubles and set aside the same amount again to resolve problems concerning mutual non-payments between enterprises. The Vice-Premier reported that these funds would be in action from the beginning of next week. Moreover, the decision on which enterprises to credit first would most probably be transferred to regional government bodies.

Shumeyko said that in accordance with a Russian Governmental decision of last Thursday, a draft programme of state protectionism for enterprises must be made by September 20th. Protectionist measures, including, the Vice-Premier said, priority crediting of workable capital, favourable tax rates, and the abolition of state duties, would be applied to those enterprises which cannot be allowed to cease to function and for which an appropriate safety net has thus been devised.

"The remaining enterprises are threatened with bankruptcy if they cannot put their own economic situation straight by themselves", said Shumeyko. In his opinion, there is no need to be afraid of this situation occurring since, according to a bill on bankruptcy, the insolvent enterprise has the right to lay off only 30% of its workforce. The reamaining 70% will be re-located to production work of value to the market.

It is already known that the Russian Parliament has, to date, not passed a law relating to bankruptcy and has postponed a decision on this government proposed project until autumn. Shumeyko stressed that a law on bankruptcy is essential to the government since it is not possible to establish a judicial procedure for bankrupt enterprises using the current presidential decree on this matter.

Touching on mutual relations with the International Monetary Fund, the Vice-Premier pointed out that the specific character of the Russian economy was such that the government could not blindly adhere to all the IMF's recommendations. However, there were intelligent people in the Russian leadership and the IMF who would always be able to come to mutual agreement.

Conference Examines Local Economic Reform

LD2408080592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0600 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Aug—A working conference "on the progress of local economic reform" is taking place today in the Russian Government. Taking part in it are Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the government; vice premiers; ministers; chairmen of republican Councils of Ministers in the Russian Federation; heads of administrations of krays and oblasts; heads of enterprises; businessmen; and private farmers.

Valeriy Makharadze, deputy chairman of the Russian Government, told this to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, having met a number of participants in the conference yesterday evening. At the meeting problems were discussed. It has been resolved to deepen reforms in accordance with the program adopted by the government and the Supreme Soviet. In the course of the meeting, Makharadze noted, it was noted that in our difficult times people are searching for a way out and finding it despite the difficulties. This is to say that the reforms have gotten off the ground. Local representatives support them and the government, but they are looking for support themselves; they need normative acts. They are increasing production volume, but recognize that they will have to close enterprises because of the inordinate tax burden.

Valeriy Makharadze said: "We need a private operator producing a good and saturating the local market." Therefore, in his opinion, the structure of industry must change. There are people who are boldly setting about doing this. They also need a certain amount of support from the government and the removal of a number of restrictions.

According to Makharadze, at the working conference not only will there be a discussion of the regions' problems and the transfer of the center of gravity of the reforms to the regions, but also a differentiated approach to the issues of taxation, investment, and state support for the medium-scale businessman producing a product for the population.

Gaydar on Economic Stress on Regions, Predictions

LD2408130992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Video report by V. Perfilyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Resistance to change and the lack of managerial experience are the main obstacles to reforms. This was noted today at a government meeting that examined the progress of the reforms at the local level.

[Perfilyev] The Russian economy, having survived the problems of growth, is now experiencing growing problems. This was said today by both administrative heads and members of the government. Vice Premiers Valeriy Makharadze, Anatoliy Chubays, and Aleksandr Shokhin all stated in their speeches that the government is often late with measures that could avert crisis situations.

The Russian leadership now believes that the reforms' center of gravity has to be switched to the regional level. They singled out three priorities: privatization checks, sell-offs via share issues, and privatization of small businesses.

It was said today that the reforms' center of gravity is now switching to the regional level. It was also said that the vertical structure of the government has to be restored. Will this lead to the government losing touch with the regions?

[Gaydar] No, quite the opposite. Contacts with the regions are not lost but are stronger, precisely because the brunt of the reforms is shifting to them. This is why we want to ensure effective interaction and accurate information, so that we can analyze how and where the reforms are proceeding.

[Perfilyev] To what extent can we say that the economy is looking favorable or otherwise?

[Gaydar] The situation in the economy is complex. Industrial output is still in decline, and this will continue. There will undoubtedly be a noticeable rise in unemployment in September; it is fairly low at the moment. However, it will go up, and go up everywhere, in the defense and other sectors. I think that there are no grounds for panic. Today we are approaching the most important thing of all: major changes to ownership. We have been having difficulties without this, which is inevitable until we prepare the regulatory mechanisms needed to tackle ownership and motivation.

Regional Affairs

Chechen Official Outlines Position on Abkhazia

OW2108142392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1353 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [20 August] H. Marayev, deputy chairman of the Chechen parliament, made a statement for the press. The Chechen Republic, he said, "has always maintained and will maintain neighborly relations with Georgia".

He dismissed the allegations of some news media that armed units are being formed in Checheniya to be dispatched to Abkhazia. "The conflict in Abkhazia is an internal affair of Georgia, and the Chechen leadership has no intention of interfering in it", said Marayev.

As IF [INTERFAX] learned from competent sources, on Friday [21 August] H. Marayev intends to visit Tbilisi to notify the Georgian leaders of the official stand taken by the Chechen Republic. It is believed that at a meeting with Marayev Georgian officials will raise the issue of extradition of the ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia who is to be brought to justice.

Discusses Personal Creed, Situation

MK2108145092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 5

[Interview with Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev by Petr Akopov and Yevgeniy Krutikov; date and place not stated: "I Know That I Am a Sacrificial Victim"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Groznyy—Chechen Republic President Dzhokhar Dudayev liked being interviewed. He seated himself comfortably in a chair in the lobby of the former oblast party committee private residence in the center of Groznyy, and up to a dozen guards—submachine guns at the ready—took up position at every window and door. Dudayev had every intention of resisting aggression, although a little later he admitted nevertheless: "I know that I am a sacrificial victim."

[Akopov] Are you afraid of assassination attempts?

[Dudayev] I have reliable information that the question of my physical destruction has been examined three times over in Moscow, even going as far as the option of an airborne assault, and specific people have been earmarked for the task. But no, I am not afraid. If my assassination does take place, then it will raise the nation's consciousness by one more degree. I have set an aim for myself, and the price of realizing it could be high. Freedom is a precious thing. It is pointless to try to acquire it cheaply. So when traveling this road, fear is not the best means of achieving one's aim.

[Akopov] Please, tell us a bit about yourself: You know, there are a lot of rumors circulating about you....

[Dudayev] My life story is a simple one, like that of any ordinary Chechen of my age. Repression stopped me from thriving as an individual. I spent 13 years in Kazakhstan, and then I went to school in a ghetto area [reservatsiya]. I knew even then that every Chechen is faced with a concrete wall which is virtually impossible to surmount. Later on, I went into aviation work—on heavy long-range aircraft and in the strategic nuclear forces. And I started to breach this anti-Chechen wall. It is possible that I managed to overcome the barrier as I traveled this path, and to get out of the slavish, humiliating position in which to this day the very word "Chechen" is seen as criminal. But then, this path is strewn with all my burdens, all my difficulties. Hard work alone has taken me along the path I have traveled—and it was incredible to have such work, given the government ban on military professions for Chechens. In recent years I had served in Estonia.

[Akopov] Is your wife Estonian?

[Dudayev] No, my wife is not Estonian. I have a small family: a son, a daughter, and another son. I would like more children, but the situation does not allow it. So, I am growing old and I will never have my desired family.

[Akopov] Has the situation in the republic changed recently?

[Dudayev] I don't think it has become any easier. I am not so stupid as to not understand the situation. I proposed several versions for a political structure and tactics for actions at this stage, but they all revolve around the fact that any proposal by me in this direction now would be inopportune. I cannot afford to make mistakes now, to promise something, because you know that the economy is in ruins, and all fingers point at me as president. The people are asking: "Where are those good things that we have been striving for?"

We could change tactics, but the people will not accept it now. It is not easy to prepare one's consciousness in a short space of time.

I know that I am a sacrificial victim. An unwilling, but wholly aware, sacrifice. The pressure from Russia and other structures is aimed precisely at me. And here, in Checheniya, there is a Fifth Column, our old party bureaucracy—they will block us. But I am ready for anything. I am ready to leave at any time, as soon as the people understand that my departure is the logical conclusion, a necessity. My life's sole aim is to establish the Chechen and Ingush peoples' right to their own distinctive structures. Until we acquire this right, until we implement it, we will remain in this shameful colony, with no hope at all for the future.

[Akopov] When did you arrive at the idea of independence for Chechen-Ingushetia?

[Dudayev] I have been gripped by this idea ever since the time when I felt the first stirrings of my consciousness. Gradually I elaborated ways of realizing it, and these plans stayed with me, strengthened, and grew. I grew more experienced, and I selected three ways of achieving independence, but only a very limited circle of people know about all of them. For a while I had my doubts, but then the third option was chosen—the path of political struggle, open, honest struggle, based on international law and with all the established norms for protecting human rights.

I know that only this way, unlike the other two, holds any promise for the future.

[Akopov] Do you have brothers-in-arms?

[Dudayev] Earlier I was always asked, when people wanted to have a dig at me in the company of friends: "Dzhokhar, how many of your people are heroes, and how many are generals?" And I always replied: "I and the one million and first hero and the one million and first general, because every Chechen was born a hero and a general. If you don't believe me, go up to a Chechen and tell him that he is not a hero, that he is not a general." The consciousness of the masses is the chief criterion. One person will never be able to incite the people to rise up if mass consciousness has not matured. Young or old, what is needed now is political activeness.

A free Chechen is very useful to everybody, not necessarily to himself but rather to those around him.

But when he is not free, he is aggressive.

Visits Saudi Arabia, Meets King

LD2308224492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1125 GMT 23 Aug 92

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 August—Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, was received on the evening of 22 August by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. In the course of the meeting, which took place in the al-Salam palace in Jeddah, the situation in the Caucasus and in the states of the Commonwealth, questions concerning relations between the Chechen Republic and Saudi Arabia and Islamic problems were discussed.

Caucasians Plan To Send Volunteers to Abkhazia

OW2208124992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1228 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moscow branch of the Abkhazian press center has circulated the decree by the president and chairman of the parliament of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples which instructs all of the Confederation's bodies to send volunteers to Abkhazia "to offer armed resistance to the Georgian aggressors". The Confederation's armed formations have been ordered to use all possible means for penetrating into Abkhazia.

All Georgians living in the republics of the Confederation have been declared hostages. An order has been issued to detain all loads moving to Georgia. By 24:00, August 22, the Confederation members must report on their readiness for action.

N. Ossetia Urges Russia To Set Peace in Abkhazia

LD2108161192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 21 TASS—The fire of the fratricidal war in Abkhazia can spread over to Russia's south and cause a civil war there, Akhsarbek Galazov, North Ossetian parliamentary speaker, said on Friday [21 August].

Galazov just returned from Armavir where he attended a meeting of representatives of North Caucasian republics, including the Adygey republic, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkariya, the Karachay-Cherkess republic, North Ossetia, and the Krasnodar, Stavropol and Rostov regions.

The meeting adopted an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov calling for a political settlement of the conflict and an immediate withdrawal of Georgian troops from Abkhazia.

He said Russia should carry out a peace-keeping mission by using its international authority to settle the conflict.

North Ossetia is ready to provide urgent humanitarian aid to Abkhazia, Galazov said, adding that the republic will send food, medicines and basic necessities to conflict-torn Abkhazia.

Galazov ruled out the possibility that North Ossetian volunteers will join the troops that are being created by the Confederation of Highland Nations to fight against Georgia, as it may further destabilise the situation in the region.

N. Ossetian Official Wants Peacekeepers To Stay

LD2308220692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] Akhsarbek Galazov, North Ossetian Supreme Soviet chairman, believes that although the joint peacekeeping forces have totally fulfilled their duty in the Tskhinvali zone, the Russian, Georgian, and Ossetian battalions should not yet be withdrawn from there. The Army remains the only real restraining force, he said in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Its presence guarantees the second stage of the peacekeeping process, the rebuilding of community services, an organized return of 100,000 refugees to their homeland, and a stage-by-stage solution to the question of Ossetia's political status.

Moscow, Tatarstan Sign Economic Agreement

OW2208124892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1229 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to an official notice issued in Tatarstan's capital, Kazan, today, a provisional agreement was signed between the governments of the two republics following negotiations between acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and Tatar Prime Minister M. Sabirov. The agreement lays down principles for the relation between the budgets of Russia and Tatarstan and clarifies some points on the export of oil and oil products.

The document will be valid until a comprehensive treaty is signed by Russia and Tatarstan.

Moscow Region Chief Meets Japanese Delegation

LD2408101992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0937 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—"Russia and Japan are on the verge of new relations that, hopefully, would be shaped during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan," said head of the administration of the Moscow region, Anatoliy Tyazhlov. He met a delegation of Japanese governors, led by Governor of the Tokyo Prefecture, Chairman of Japan's National Council of Governors Shinichi Suzuki. The Japanese guests arrived on Sunday [23 August] in Moscow to attend the 12th meeting with heads of administration of Russia.

The meeting focused on a wide range of issues: The role of local administration in the system of foreign economic relations of the country, the taxation system. The issue of "Northern Territories" was also raised. While Suzuki expressed the hope that the South Kurils problem will be tackled during Yeltsin's visit, Tyazhlov diplomatic dodged the subject saying only that he was "more concerned about territorial disputes between Moscow and the region".

Also today the Japanese delegation will meet Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov. On Tuesday a conference on the subject "further development of friendly relations between Russia and Japan" will take place in Moscow. The delegation will also travel to Tver, St. Petersburg and Irkutsk.

Turkish Delegation Arrives in St. Petersburg

LD2108174492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg August 21 TASS—A Turkish parliamentary delegation arrived here from Moscow on Thursday [20 August] to meet St. Petersburg City Council Chairman Aleksandr Belyayev and Vice-Mayor Vyacheslav Shcherbakov and discuss the development of bilateral cooperation.

St. Petersburg can occupy a special place in the Russian-Turkish relations, stressed the vice-mayor. There are real grounds for this, since the city has a large economic, scientific and cultural potential.

It can offer the Turkish side high technologies recently used in programs of the military-industrial complex and original scientific developments. The city also has a possibility to be a link in the East-West trade.

Turkish delegation head and Turkish Parliament Chairman Husamettin Cindoruk said he shares the opinion on the St. Petersburg ability to play a more constructive role in business, political and cultural relations between the two states.

He said St. Petersburg is of priority significance for them and they believe it can be a twin-city of their Bursa. It is high time to quit speaking about the need for cooperation and begin interacting in various spheres, said Cindoruk.

Touching on official meetings in Moscow, the parliament head noted they were very useful. Russia and Turkey have mutual understanding or similarity of stands on many aspects of bilateral and international cooperation, including the idea to create an interparliamentary alliance of Black Sea states, said Cindoruk. Work in this respect will be continued.

As for the Turkish-Russian trade turnover, it should be increased to ten billion U.S. dollars a year. During their visit, the delegation members made sure there are all grounds for this, noted Cindoruk.

The Turkish delegation laid a wreath at the Piskarevskoye Memorial Cemetery.

International Affairs

Presidium Issues Statement on Sarajevo

LD2208163592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 22 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Ivan Sayko]

[Text] Kiev, 22 Aug (TASS)—The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium has launched a strong protest in connection with the recent events in Sarajevo, where the Ukrainian battalion of the UN peace-keeping forces had more losses as result of criminal activities of the warring sides aimed against UN efforts to settle the Yugoslav conflict.

Senior Warrant Officer Viktor Salokhin was killed with a sniper shot there. This is the third case of purposeful actions against the Ukrainian battalion that has lead to the loss of life.

A statement of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium circulated here today says the purposeful provocative shellings of servicemen from the UN peace-keeping forces are gross violation of principles and norms of the international law.

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium has appealed to the United Nations secretary-general and the UN Security Council with an insistent request to use their authority and possibilities of the organization to achieve the strict fulfillment of Resolution 770 of the Security Council in order to ensure the maximum safety of servicemen from the UN peace-keeping forces' Ukrainian contingent.

In case these measures are not taken, Ukraine preserves the right to consider further status of the Ukrainian battalion in the conflict zone, says the statement.

'Profound Concern' Noted

LD2308041292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0220 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] UN Organization, [dateline as received]—The Ukrainian Government has requested that the United Nations adopt additional measures to ensure the safety of the international peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia, where on Thursday, 20 August, Senior Warrant Officer Viktor Salokhin, a serviceman of a Ukrainian battalion belonging to the UN peacekeeping force, was killed by two sniper's shots. Butros Butros-Ghali, UN secretary general, received Viktor Batyuk, Ukrainian permanent representative to the United Nations, on Friday who on behalf of his government, expressed profound concern at the continuing provocations against the Ukrainian contingent of the UN forces.

V. Batyuk suggested using the conference on the former Yugoslavia, which is being held in London from 26-28 August, to discuss measures to ensure the safety of the UN forces personnel in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The UN secretary general expressed his profound condolences to the Ukrainian Government and the family of Senior Warrant Officer V.Salokhin.

Morozov Comments on Control of Black Sea Fleet

LD2108163392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] The chief navy headquarters of the former USSR, presently the CIS Navy, is attempting to continue commanding the Black Sea Fleet, said Ukraine's Defense Minister, Konstantin Morozov, in an interview for the newspaper "NARODNAYA ARMIYA". All issues pertaining to the Black Sea Fleet must be solved as soon as possible stated the minister, otherwise Ukraine will not be able to fulfill a single principle included in the Yalta Treaty.

Bush Congratulates Ukraine on Independence

LD2208022292 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1632 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] U.S. President George Bush, sent a letter to President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine, in which he greeted Kravchuk and congratulated him on the national holiday of Ukraine—the first anniversary of independence.

It is a really special day for Ukraine, the U.S. President writes. You have started to fulfill a very difficult, but vitally important task—developing Ukraine into a democratic member of the world community with equal rights. We support your continuous efforts to establish democratic institutions and guarantee human rights. Also, you will encounter many problems in creating a market economy which will bring well-being to your people. The United States is ready to support your efforts in implementing market reforms by granting technical and humanitarian aid in many spheres.

Ukraine also treated with courage the settling of one of the most difficult problems which was left for it by the past—the problem of nuclear weapons. The position taken by the Parliament of your country in regard to turning it into a nonnuclear country has served as an important guide for our common efforts directed at freeing the world from the threat of nuclear destruction. As quickly as Ukraine has grown as a nation, it has also become a friend of the United States and a responsible figure on the world arena. We will continue working together shoulder to shoulder and will continue the process of development which your meetings in Washington in May assisted considerably. At the same time, we warmly note the responsibility with which Ukraine was trying to settle problems that arose with neighboring states. It did this as a sovereign state with equal rights by way of peaceful talks, noted the U.S. President in the letter.

Russian Ambassador on Bilateral Relations

LD2108164692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Russian-Ukrainian relations are marked with an aspiration to advance side by side said the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Russia in Ukraine, Leonid Smolyakov, in an interview for the Ukrainian press. But the problem lies in the absence of mechanism for such a rapprochement. Besides this our ties are now marked with an undermining of the system of mutual financial actions. It is necessary to swiftly set up a mutual settling of accounts, singled out the ambassador.

Ambassador Remarks on CIS Membership

OW2208173192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian ambassador to Russia Vladimir Krizhanovskiy told the newspaper Golos Ukrainy (the Voice of Ukraine) that Ukraine should stay with CIS till it becomes a full-fledged member of the European community. But even then, we do not intend to build a "great Chinese wall" to separate ourselves from Russia. The borders between our states will remain transparent and no visas will be required for travelling.

Chinese Delegation Meets Kravchuk for Talks

LD2208033392 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1246 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Ivan Sayko]

[Text] On 21 August, President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine received a delegation of the All-Chinese National People's Congress, headed by Seypidin Aze, deputy chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, which is in our country on an official visit. In the course of an openhearted and frank conversation, both sides drew attention to the existence of conditions for more dynamic and mutually beneficial cooperation and talked about the need to make contacts more active in economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and other spheres. For example, trade and economic contacts could expand as soon as in the very near future.

In China, they are looking forward to a visit of the president of Ukraine and attach great importance to it, the head of the delegation said. He gave sincere congratulations from the leadership of China to the people of Ukraine on the occasion of the first anniversary of independence.

On the same day, the guests had a meeting in the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Valentyn Symonenko, the first vice premier, acquainted them with the course of economic reform and ways to switch to those branches of industry that could become a priority in relations between the two states.

During a conversation with Ivan Saliy, presidential representative in Kiev, the necessity to strengthen direct contacts between the capitals of both states was particularly discussed.

The Chinese parliamentarians visit to Ukraine continues.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Remarks on Independence Anniversary

LD2208183992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1820 GMT 22 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Anatoly Grigoryeve and Viktor Demidenko]

[Text] Kiev, 22 Aug (TASS)—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said they should clearly understand the significance and responsibility of the tasks to create a free and democratic Ukrainian state, when noting the historic importance of the act on independence and the referendum for Ukraine and the whole international community.

The very idea of Ukrainian statehood should unite all parties and movements, stressed the president, speaking today at a meeting of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and the government on the occasion of the first anniversary of declaration of Ukrainian independence.

He said they should work to create new political structures of the young state. Ukraine is now trying to overcome the complicated economic situation in a peaceful, democratic and law-governed way and hold reforms in a civilized way and calmly.

The president dwelt on the Ukrainian foreign policy, saying over the two thirds of states have recognized independent Ukraine. The republic has established diplomatic relations with the majority of them. Ukraine is successfully integrating with the common European process.

Advocates Currency Introduction

OW2208165792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing today's meeting on occasion of the first anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said the main cause of the present-day economic crisis was the prolonged sway of the totalitarian command-and-administer system, grave faults in the republic's economic development, and imperial dictatorship from the center.

He thought the crisis could be surmounted by building a free and democratic Ukraine.

In his opinion, one of the priority objectives is the adoption of a new constitution ensuring adequate protection of human rights. "We need radical economic reforms, a market economy, privatization, and demonopolization. This is the road Ukraine should resolutely follow," he stressed.

He said Ukraine urgently needed its own banking system and currency.

He emphasized that Ukraine's policies should be based on principles of democracy, respect for international law, nonparticipation in political blocs, and neutrality, and should be aimed at achieving a nuclear-free status. At the same time, the country should have armed forces "able to defend it."

Simonenko's Ability To Boost Reform Doubted

LD2208203992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Commentary by Vladimir Sinelnikov on Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's 20 August decree establishing a coordinating council for economic reform—live from Kiev]

[Text] The pace of economic reform in Ukraine is impermissibly slow. This has become received wisdom, and is doubted by no one. So the Ukrainian president has obviously decided to speed up the reforms by establishing this new executive authority. The council's remit is to coordinate the way that state bodies implement economic reform. It is headed by a new man in the government: First Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Simonenko. However, political onlookers strongly doubt the ability of the government's new economic supremo to take any kind of decisive action. Valentin Simonenko, unlike his predecessor Vladimir Lanovoy, is one of yesterday's men. During the good old days of stagnation he held the exalted and high-level post of chairman of the Odessa city executive committee. Outsiders do not get jobs like these. In Ukraine, Simonenko is a little-known figure. He has been pulled out from the old-boy network for reasons incomprehensible to mere mortals.

Our new first deputy prime minister started out in his new walk of life with a statement that left us all incredulous. Ukraine, he said, does not need the West's aid and is quite capable of reforming itself under its own steam. Within a month, however, he had changed his mind, and adopted the diametrically opposite view. At a meeting with German businessmen, he tried to persuade them not to fear investing in the most reliable market of all—the Ukrainian one, so he said. Such about-turns point either to the lack of any specific plan of action or to a willingness to jettison his views. Neither becomes a man who is supposed to spearhead reforms. Simonenko's views apparently coincide with those of Prime Minister Vitold Fokin. At least, the deputy prime minister has not advanced any new ideas of his own over the past six months.

If the old and already discredited reform program forms the basis of the coordinating council's work, then we need not expect any positive results—just another offshoot of a bloated bureaucracy. We can draw a parallel between the inauguration of this council and the fanfare that accompanied the creation of the State Duma a few months ago, when hopes of accelerating the reforms were also raised. However, the Duma was set up, it exists, and it has been forgotten. The coordinating council is likely to meet the same glorious fate. The economic crisis is unlikely to be frightened off by the grandly named Council to Coordinate Industrial and Economic Reform. Likewise, the big idea in the decree is unlikely to inspire and motivate underfed cows to raising their milk yields. Crisis is crisis—and government is government. The two have yet to encounter each other.

Press Service Reports Poor Discipline in Army

AU2208153992 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Aug 92 p 1

[Article by Colonel Petro Medvid, chief of the Press Service of Ukraine's Border Troops: "Everything is Quiet at the Border?"]

[Text] Only six months ago, when the headstrong struggle for the return of our soldiers from the Transcaucasus, Central Asia, and other areas of the former Union was under way, the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers and the parliamentarians were convincing us that Ukrainian boys should only do their military service on the territory of their homeland and only within Ukraine's Armed Forces.

It is precisely during these heated debates on where our sons were to serve, that desertion reached its apogee. Hundreds of servicemen rushed home while justifying their conduct by wanting to defend the borders of mother Ukraine.

However, how can one explain the flight of our soldiers from military units today? They escape from Lvov Oblast to Kiev Oblast, from Chernivtsi to Dnipropetrovsk, and from Transcarpathia to Kharkiv Oblast. The fugitives are young soldiers who have just put on military uniforms and those who only have to serve another two or three months before being released to the reserves. What does not suit the soldiers in their homeland?

The climatic conditions both here and there are identical and so is the quality of service. The situation in the troops is different today. While before, during the two years of service, only those who showed the best results in military training could go home on leave, at present, a 20-day leave is guaranteed to every soldier. The servicemen also take advantage of other benefits provided for by the law "On the General Military Duty and Military Service." By the way, it is written in the law that the defense of Ukraine is a state duty of its every citizen. Every soldier is obliged to serve wherever the interests of the motherland demand his presence. However, unfortunately, many servicemen forget about this and, in the first days of their stay within a unit, start scribbling reports to their commanders with a request to transfer them closer to their home.

Often, without waiting for the reply, they run away. Some parents also push them to desertion. They believe that, if their child serves nearby, everybody will be calmer. The mother of regular V. Trushyn also justifies her action by these considerations. Having arrived to her son's unit, she took him home and one week later informed the commander that her son would serve near the place of residence—in Donetsk Oblast.

Of course, one can understand the parents: Every mother wants her son next to her. Who will then guard the border at a check point high in the Carpathian Mountains? Who will risk his life in the confrontation with an armed gang at the border between Ukraine and Moldova? It is even hard to imagine what harm to the combat readiness will be caused by those soldiers who, in the very first days of service, try to get closer to their homes.

Another trouble is also becoming felt: Recently, cases of drunkenness on days off and on holidays have become more frequent in formations and units, when parents with bags full of food and alcoholic drinks demand that their sons be released for a day or two. There are cases in which alcohol brought by the parents is drunk in guardrooms, barracks, and so on. Often, meetings with parents end in blatant violations of discipline, adventures, or even crimes. This is precisely what happened in the Drohobych border guard unit when the father visited regular A. Kasyanov. He brought from the Crimea one liter of home-distilled vodka to celebrate his son's birthday. The son shared the liquor with his friends. After this, they jointly beat up their junior commander. At the separate border control post "Chop" [geographical name], it was the other way around: Regulars A. Ohinskyy and H. Halazhenko, having taken alcohol from their parents, treated junior sergeant A. Mayorov.

The commanders are also concerned about the illegal actions by so-called "fellow countrymen" who arrive at border check posts and try to persuade their acquaintances—junior controllers—to pass contraband goods across the border.

Of course, such cases are generally not typical for the life and activity of the troops. An overwhelming majority of the Ukrainian boys guard the state borders. During this year alone, they have detained hundreds of border trespassers, put an end to smuggling attempts, and so on. However, these results could even be better if individual soldiers had not violated the military oath.

It is no secret that many of those who, yesterday, were most enthusiastic about creating National Armed Forces, have now given up practical actions. It is the easiest thing to change symbols at soldiers' shoulder straps and tabs and introduce national attributes and military rituals. It is much more difficult to educate a future soldier, an active citizen of an independent state for whom Duty, Honor, and Allegiance to the people of Ukraine would always be holy principles.

Incidentally, as I was finishing writing these lines, we received information from the operational duty officer of Ukraine's Border Troops: One hour earlier, another regular escaped from a town border check post....

Belarus

Draft Constitution Published in Minsk

LD2208181192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] A draft constitution for the Republic of Belarus was published in Minsk today for nationwide discussion. The republican constitution contains a new approach for the formation of Belarus's supreme legislative body. It provides for four-year parliamentary terms and the professional nature of the institution. This is the second time that the draft constitution has been put forward for public discussion. After its first publication, the draft was subjected to nationwide analysis by independent experts and scientists, and was examined by experts on behalf of the public. [Moscow Radio in Russian at 2130 GMT on 22 August in a similar report adds: "It was analyzed nationwide after its first publication by independent experts, scientists, and the public. After the document had been considered at the first reading, over 6,000 people sent their amendments and addendums to the Constitutional Commission. The part detailing citizens' rights was the one to receive a particularly large number of amendments...The amplified draft of the Belarus Constitution will be discussed at the next session of Parliament."]

Price Hikes Show Market 'Trap'

PM2008160192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 1

[Oleg Stepanenko article: "Triple Trap for the Belarusian"]

[Text] The anniversary of the August events has been greeted in Belarus with another round of price increases. Bread and bakery products have tripled in price, milk and all dairy products have doubled, and the price of animal fat has risen 60 percent.

On the whole, no one is surprised today at the crazy prices which have reduced the peoples of the former USSR republics to poverty. However, the Belarusian Government's August gift was a shock.

Let us begin by noting that the republic's leadership had protected the republic from the market free-for-all. Admittedly, neither Shushkevich nor Kebich was putting himself on the line. However, prior to August, a kilo of wheat flour cost 9.40 rubles [R] in Minsk and R26 in Moscow, a kilogram of butter cost R77-90, whereas in Moscow and Kiev it was R212 and R200 respectively, and a liter of milk cost R2.86 in Minsk and R8 and R19 in Moscow and Kiev. It was promised that the circumspect policy would be continued, that the increase in food prices would be held down as much as possible, and that, if they were increased, it would not be as drastic as in neighboring states. "We cannot repeat what is happening in other regions in this connection," Kebich said.

Then suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, there appeared this shock increase in prices. "To bring retail prices for these important foodstuffs into line with neighboring states" is the explanation given in the official commentary on the Council of Ministers resolution. So this is a repetition.... Why?

The report published a week earlier by the State Committee for Statistics and Analysis on the socioeconomic situation in the republic in the first half of the year helps to clarify matters. The figures make for depressing reading. National income fell 13 percent, the production of industrial goods fell 11.7 percent, food production fell 21 percent, and retail trade turnover fell by one-third. Essentially the republic's economy began to collapse in January. This price hike is just one aspect of that.

Until now, the Belarusian national economy had developed dynamically and national income had risen at a pace which even the advanced capitalist countries could not dream of. For a long time, even the notorious perestroyka could not reverse that process. In 1989, national income rose 8 percent. The shelves groaned under the weight of cheap foodstuffs. Unless there were 27 different kinds of sausage in the store in Minsk (and even the reactionary "democratic" NARODNAYA GAZETA admits this), the store director was taken to task. In the production of many types of output, Belarus left the most developed countries behind. In tractor production it was ahead of everyone except Japan and the United States, and in the production of chemical fibers and yarns it was ahead of everyone except Italy. It produced more mineral fertilizers than France, the FRG, Britain, or Japan. Per capita, milk production was almost triple that of the United States or Britain....

What supernatural force stopped the republic's development and sent it into deep decline? The answer lies with the democrats who began their victorious march in Russia and dragged Belarus after them. In addition to destroying economic ties, which they achieved via the disintegration of the Union, the new reformers foisted on other former USSR republics, a ruinous economic course heading toward the abyss of the market.

Healthy forces in Belarus tried to resist. Specialists, scientists, and economic managers noted that the reforms were completely economically inept. At the republic's State Committee for Statistics I was given a bulky research study on Japan, where they tamed unruly market forces long ago by using five-and even (following our example) a seven-year state regulation plan.

There are even more impressive documents in Minsk: substantial analyses by the UN Commission for the republics of the former Soviet Union. They say: What the Russian reformers mean by the market is certainly not the system in operation in the West. If you remove the veneer, you will see that in the West, there is no trace of the market as a free force—there they have planned regulation using commodity and monetary levers (or market levers, if you prefer). By imposing market chaos and moving back from civilization, the Russian reformers have laid a trap for the economy. Belarus fell into it after Russia did.

How can you restrain market madness when prices have been increased in a powerful neighboring state—

everything which is cheaper in our republic will be resold there. The Belarusian Government held out for only two weeks at the beginning of the year, and put a brake on the liberalization of food prices. Then it succumbed and followed Russia in embarking on market liberalization.

How can you hold out when the trap laid by the Russian reformers has been determinedly and energetically laid here too, by democrats from the Belorusian People's Front. In their programs they completely followed the destructive course of their Russian democratic counterparts. By offering the same market madness and the same standards of market illiteracy. For example, they transferred 40 percent of agricultural land to private farmers as private property as soon as possible. Despite the fact that even if you could find that many farmers, it would take more than 100 years to equip them to the present-day Western standard (without giving anything to the kolkhozes): That would mean tightening our belts until the end of the 21st century.

The same illiteracy also appeared in the demand for the privatization of industry and trade on the grounds that the private operator will cut prices. Alas! The aforementioned commentary on the Council of Ministers resolution cites the following figures: Unless the price of bread is subsidized from the budget, it will have to rise 8-10 times while prices for dairy produce and meat will have to rise 3-4 times. Which is what the private producer would do. As Western experience also shows, without planned state regulation, he can guarantee only chaos and a price free-for-all.

However, the Belorusian People's Front and all the democratic media duped the people and hammered home just one thought: Salvation lies in the market and the private producer. Thus, they tightened the springs of the "trap."

Certain forces in the West rushed to their aid. The IMF.... By demanding liberalization and financial stabilization (at the Belorusian people's expense!) it apparently urged a new round of price increases....

People are increasingly coming to understand the flawed nature of the republic's chosen course. Increasingly often, the press is citing a comment from a local parliamentary leader: Russia plunged to earth like an overweight parachutist and we are attached to it. The question is: Who fitted the parachute? Discredited Western market monetarists, it appears.

It only remains to be added that at a meeting with French journalists in July, Kebich said: "The republic's parliament and government have chosen the right course: They did not rush into liberalization but elaborated a program for the transitional period in the modernization of the economy as a counterbalance to 'shock therapy' and protected the people from many hardships and privations."

It seems that the course is changing. The policy of compromise has forced the government into a triple trap laid by the "democrats." Russian, homegrown, and foreign democrats. The vexing thing is that the good and hardworking people of Belarus have also been forced into that trap.

Moldova

Chisinau To Fortify Border with Ukraine

OW2108164492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources close to the Moldovan government have informed If [INTERFAX] that the construction of technical border installations is rapidly taking place at all border crossing points between Ukraine and Moldova. The border security work is being carried out under supervision of the south-west Ukrainian military border patrol.

Three brigades have been formed to protect the Moldovan border. They have been stationed in the towns of Kamenets-Podolsk and Kotovsk and the settlement of Berezino in the Odessa region. The establishment of border commandants' offices and frontier posts is nearing completion.

The same sources have revealed that visas will shortly be introduced for crossing the Ukraine-Moldova border. Access control posts and customs offices are already functioning along the main highways.

It is considered in Chisinau that the fact that Ukraine is busy fortifying its borders means that Moldova will have to take similar measures in protecting its own side of the border. This is complicated by the fact that virtually the whole of her eastern border is under Dniestrn control. Chisinau sees a way around this obstacle through official channels and wishes to commence urgent negotiations with the Dniester leadership on matters relating to her borders.

States' Military Observers To Begin Activity

AU2208152792 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Gabriel Ionescu report from Chisinau]

[Text] People living in Dubasari Rayon will meet today at 0900 [0600 GMT] in the village of Cocieri to discuss certain problems regarding refugees who cannot return to their homes and the situation of those persons who have fought with weapons for the integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The meeting has been organized by an initiative group, consisting of a number of persons from the villages of Corjova and Cocieri.

General Pavel Creanga, the Moldovan Defense Minister, met at his ministry's headquarters in Chisinau with the two co-presidents of the Unified Control Commission, Lieutenant-General Vladimir Zhurbenko, deputy chief of staff head of the Russian Federation's forces, and Nicolae Chirtoaca, state counselor for military issues of Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

General Zhurbenko left Chisinau last afternoon, heading for Moscow. At the beginning of next week, he is to brief the Russian Federation's Government on the current situation in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, on the stage reached so far in the implementation of the convention signed on 21 July by Presidents Mircea Snegur and Boris Yeltsin concerning the peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Dniester zone of Moldova, as well as on the further activity of the Unified Control Commission. Before leaving Chisinau, the Russian general made a statement, asserting that the members of the commission had completed, in general terms, the first step aimed at stabilizing the situation, but that he was unsatisfied with the activity of Moldovan politicians who are supposed to begin negotiations concerning the future status of the Dniester zone.

Esteemed listeners, as I have already reported, the military observers groups, which were set up as a result of the four-way talks, have resumed their activity. In a recent interview, Mr. Nicolae Chirtoaca, co-president of the Unified Control Commission, announced that the heads of the military observer groups got in touch with representatives of the Unified Military Command of the peacekeeping forces, so that they can be briefed on latest events in the conflict zone and thus be able to elaborate plans for their activity. The 24 military observers—six from each of the countries participating in the four-way mechanism—will assist the Unified Control Commission to monitor the way in which the stipulations of the Moscow convention, as well as those of the agreements signed by the foreign ministers of Moldova, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine are observed. Those military observers are to be deployed in at least five different localities in the disengagement zone, thus being able to properly evaluate information of strategic value, which is one of their main goals.

Fuel Oil Deliveries 'Suspended Altogether'

LD2308043192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] Moldova is extremely short of fuel supplies. Up until the beginning of August, just over 80,000 tonnes of coal have been received, a mere 10 percent of the average quantity normally stocked at this point in time.

Fuel oil deliveries to the republic have been suspended altogether. Valeriy Ikonnikov, director general of the Moldovan state department for power resources, said that Russian and Ukrainian miners and oil workers refuse to deliver their production to consumers without prepayment. The Moldovan power industry is using its last raw material resources. Moldova needs a credit of over 2 billion rubles for getting the necessary amount of fuel.

The problem can be partially resolved if Russia grants a 5 billion ruble credit to Moldova, the republic's Finance Ministry told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

Dniester Republic 'Vanguard of Communist Revenge'

OW2208211892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur writes in his letter to the Donetsk Regional Council that talks are the only acceptable way of settling the situation in Moldova. He said that Moldova was guided by this principle as it was creating a conciliatory commission and participated in several quadripartite talks between the foreign ministers and the heads of state.

However, the ambitious Dniester leaders would like to turn Dniester from the last stronghold of socialism into the vanguard of the communist revenge, said Snegur.

Kazakhstan

Decree on Border Guard Formation Noted

LD2308164392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] A decree by President Nursultan Nazarbayev on 22 August calls for the establishment of border troops in Kazakhstan. The units will be created on the basis of the former Eastern Border District of the USSR KGB. Lt.Gen. Yevgeniy Niverovskiy, former commander of the Eastern Border District, has been appointed commander of the Kazakh border troops.

Military Cooperation Accord Signed With Russia

LD2108210592 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1750 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Military delegations from Kazakhstan and Russia have met in Alma-Ata, where they worked hard for two days. They discused the whole complex of issues relating to various forms of cooperation between the armies of the two states.

On 19 August, Kazakh Defense Minister Colonel General Sagadat Nurmagambetov and Col. Gen. Viktor Dubynin, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia, signed agreements on the system of military service for persons of the officer corps and army and naval warrant officers, and on the training of officers in military educational establishments. These agreements are valid for five years, with an automatic extension for the following year unless either of the parties objects.

In accordance with the documents signed, the existing system is guaranteed for military service, detached duty, release into the reserve, and the provision of pensions for officers and army and naval warrant officers in accordance with the legislation of each country. No obstacles will be placed in the way of the transfer of these persons from the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan to the Armed Forces of Russia, and vice versa, on condition that there are grounds defined by the appropriate legislation.

The need for the joint development of the existing system of training officers to supply the requirements of the Armed Forces of the two states was also recognized. On the basis of accords reached, an annual plan is being worked out to take citizens to study in Kazakh and Russian military educational establishments. Documents on the training received in these establishments will be recognized as equivalent.

After the signing of the agreement the leaders of the delegations held a news conference.

On the same day another series of documents defining the principles of reciprocal cooperation in the military field was signed.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev received and talked with Col. Gen. Nurmagambetov and Col. Gen. Dubynin.

Harvesting Begins; Grain Deliveries Increase

LD2208174692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0600 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] Following farms in the southern zone in Uralsk oblast grain-growers in Chapayevskiy, Taypakskiy, and Adzhayitskiy rayons are completing harvesting operations. Delivery of bread-grains to elevators and grain acceptance enterprises is up in Dzhambeytinskiy, Terektinskiy, and Chingirlauskiy rayons. Western Kazakhstan is not overlooking seeds. More than two thirds of the required quantity has already been procured. The harvesting-92 campaign is seeing to all possibilities for this. From the beginning of the harvesting period, productivity has been maintained at 11 qunitels per hectare. Grain-growers in Terektinskiy rayon are averaging nearly 18 quintels per hectare at collection. In Uralsk oblast and Adzhayitskiy rayon, it is nearly 16 quintels per hectare. The oblast plans to complete threshing by 1 September and to fulfill state orders for delivering bread-grain by 15 September. This amounts to nearly 650,000 tonnes. The dates are tough but very realistic.

New Emigration Law Published; Quota Expected

LD2108213392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] A law on emigration was published today in Kazakhstan. Now its citizens have the right to freely change their places of residence, within the republic, or to move to another country and return. As for the indigenous population residing abroad, they will face no problem whatsoever if they wish to return to their historic homeland. The republican president, at the request of the Cabinet of Ministers, is to fix an emigration quota for every calendar year. It envisages differentiated allowances and a system of benefits for refugees and repatriates who were forced to leave the republic during repressions, forcible collectivization, as a result of anti-humanitarian political actions, mass starvation, and who currently return to their homeland, as well as for their descendants. [Moscow Radio in Russian at 0700 GMT on 22 August in a similar report adds: "The law comes into force on 1 December this year."]

Vice President Receives Turkish Bank Officials

LD2208020192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1750 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Vice President Yerik Asanbayev received the president of the Eximbank export and import bank, Professor Ahmet Ertugrul, and his deputy Namik Oscan. They are in Alma-Ata on an official visit in connection with the forthcoming opening of a credit line from Turkey.

Of the $200 million allocated to Kazakhstan on credit, $165 million are intended for investment purposes, and $35 million for the purchase of consumer goods. For the Kazakhstan side, the agreement will be signed by the Alem Bank of Kazakhstan.

During the discussion, they also talked about issues connected with the activity of Turkey's banking system, regulatory bodies for currency relations, and Eximbank. Ahmet Ertugrul expressed a readiness to provide assistance in training bank staff and technical aid in setting up similar banks in Kazakhstan.

Chairman of the Board of Alem Bank of Kazakhstan, Berlin Irishev, took part in the discussion.

Economic Agreement Signed With Lower Saxony

LD2108225792 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0220 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Excerpts] [No dateline as received] As has already been reported, a government delegation from the German land of Lower Saxony has paid a visit to Kazakhstan. Economy Minister Peter Fischer headed the delegation. Several meetings took place with representatives of state and entrepreneurial structures of the republic. State Economy Committee Chairman Tleukhan Kabdrakhmanov led the negotiations. The main result was the signing of an agreement on economic cooperation. At the State Economy Committee meeting, a KAZTAG correspondent was given the opportunity to acquaint himself with this document.

Among other things, the agreement states that the land government accepts Kazakhstan into Lower Saxony's program of guarantees, with the aim of allowing entrepreneurs from Germany to work in our republic without apprehension. Translated from diplomatic language, this means that the Government of Lower Saxony guarantees the investments and other assistance of German businessmen. [passage omitted]

Incidentally, the delegation included members of the board of such major firms as Volkswagen and Preussag. This opens up wide prospects for the development of further cooperation between Kazakhstan and Germany.

In accordance with the agreement, the Government of Lower Saxony will provide candidates from Kazakhstan with places for training in the German Academy of Management. The agreement will assist the hiring of experienced experts to compile training programs for our students and will also assist the development of directions for expanding economic cooperation. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Education Minister Visits, Signs Accord

LD2308062492 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] A delegation of the Education Ministry of Egypt, headed by Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha' al-Din, which is currently on a working visit to Alma-Ata, was received on 21 August by Vice President Yerik Asanbayev. He told the guests about the state of affairs in the republic's economy, education, science, and culture. In particular, it was noted that the discrepancy between their banking and finance system and world standards, and the absence of the required number of managers capable of resolving tasks under new conditions, astutely was the main obstacle on the way of economic transformations. The education system should make a valuable contribution to removing these deficiencies. Kazakhstan hopes for help in this matter on the part of Egypt as well, which in its time has successfully overcome a difficult period of transition to new socioeconomic relations.

The Egyptian minister stressed that the peoples of the two states had much in common in economy, culture, and ethnic features. We believe, he said, that Kazakhstan will overcome all difficulties and occupy a decent place in the world community. Egypt will provide aid to it in education as well as in many other fields.

On the same day, Shaysultan Shayakhmetov, Kazakhstan minister for public education, and Husayn Kamil Baha' al-Din signed a protocol on bilateral cooperation. It envisages exchange of schoolchildren, students, lecturers, and scholars and also of necessary information. After that, the ministers held a news conference.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Meets Pakistani Official

LD2108221892 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Supreme Soviet Chairman Serikbolsyn Abdilin received the Pakistani Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan on 20 August, at the latter's request. During their conversation, they discussed matters of Kazakh-Pakistani cooperation, including cooperation between their legislative bodies. They expressed a shared desire to develop mutually advantageous political, economic, and cultural contacts between the neighboring states and to revive traditional and historical ties between their peoples.

Tajikistan

Procurator-General Khuvaydullayev Assassinated

LD2408061192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0601 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe August 24 TASS—Tajikistan's Procurator-General Nurullo Khuvaydullayev was brutally killed on Monday morning [24 August]. ITAR-TASS was told by investigators that two cars blocked the road near the Social Security Ministry at 8 A.M. Unidentified gunmen who were in the cars ran to the car of the procurator general, forced Khuvaydullayev and the driver to get out of the car and shot them at point blank from automatic rifles. After committing the murder, the criminals drove away in the procurator's car because one of their own cars was damaged with automatic fire.

According to investigators, attempts on the life of Khuvaydullayev have been made before. Two months ago unidentified persons forced their way into the study of the procurator-general and demanded that he close the case of former Dushanbe Mayor Maksud Ikramov.

Speaker Denies Claims of Hekmatyar-Armed Units

LD2308203192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] The speaker of the Tajik Parliament, Akbarsho Iskandarov, has described as false the publication in the American weekly NEWSWEEK that claimed paramilitary Islamic units were being formed in Tajikistan, armed by the Afghan Mujahidin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

The speaker also denied the weekly's reports about the Mojahedin arms supplies to Tajikistan, prior to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Similar reports, Akbarsho Iskandarov has stressed, are spread by certain circles which are not interested in preserving territorial integrity or independence of Tajikistan.

Nabiyev Heads Meeting on Disarmament in Republic

LD2108201792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Video report by A. Khodzhayev; from the "Novosti" program]

[Text] Kurgan-Tyube oblast in Tajikistan has become the most dangerous area in the republic. Frequent attempts are made there by various groupings to destabilize the situation. The work of the second, regular session of the republican headquarters on disarmament completed its work in Kurgan-Tyube today. It was headed by President Nabiyev.

[Begin recording] [Khodzhayev] The participants in the meeting agreed on one thing: Things can't get worse. The oblast's inhabitants need urgent aid and protection. A protocol has been developed that, among other things, provides for the creation of additional control posts in Kumsangirskiy and Dzhilikulskiy rayons, the introduction of controls over the movements of citizens up to and including an internal passport regime, the allocation of 50 million rubles for urgent material aid to the inhabitants of the rayons that have suffered most, and the declaration of all armed formations and self-defense detachments illegal.

The same day, President Rakhmon Nabiyev flew to the city of Pyandzh on the Tajik-Afghan border. The situation here causes justified concern. People continue to cross the border. Weapons from Afghanistan continue to come into the republic.

[Nabiyev] I think that the border needs to be guarded by the common forces within the framework of the CIS. An agreement with the Russian Federation will be signed and we will have this issue in view as well. Possibly some conscripts will be sent there and some will come to guard the border, so we'll draw up an agreement and sign it, but the border needs to be guarded by joint forces. [end recording]

Said Seeking Russian Support

MK2408092092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Aug 92 p 3

[Unattributed report from the "NEGA Reports" column: "Tajikistan"]

[Text] President Rakhmon Nabiyev's trip to Kurgan-Tyube Oblast has ended. This trip, described by the state news agency KHOVAR as successful, was actually a formal one, Colonel Dzhurabek Aminov, first deputy chairman of the republic's Committee for National Securtiy, told a NEGA correspondent.

In a helicopter belonging to Russian border troops, President Nabiyev landed at a military unit base, where he held a meeting with servicemen from the Russian troops: Then he flew to the location of the Pyandzh Border Guards Detachment.

It became clear from conversations with the servicemen and representatives of the Kulyab formations that Nabiyev is trying to involve the Russian military and have it send in additional formations.

According to Colonel Aminov, the noticeable calm achieved in the southern regions through lengthy talks could be violated. There has been renewed clashes immediately following R. Nabiyev's selection of a chief of staff for disarmament in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast's Bokhtarskiy Rayon. In the last three days, one person has been killed and five wounded there.

President Nabiyev has brought into his apparatus former Tajik Supreme Soviet Chairman Safarali Kendzhayev, who was relieved of his post under a decision by the 15th session of the Tajik parliament.

According to unconfirmed information, Safarali Kendzhayev's job will be to monitor the implementation of the president's decrees.

IMF Delegation Shows Interest in Economy

OW2208131992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] led by an adviser from its European Board, Henry Lori, has arrived in Tajikistan, to stay until August 29. At a meeting with Tajik First Vice-Premier Tukhtaboy Gafarov, Lori stressed the IMF's great interest in having permanent and stable contacts with Tajikistan.

Lori said Tajikistan's membership in the IMF would enable the republic to have full-scale trade and economic relations with foreign countries, but he emphasized, at the same time, that Tajikistan should have an economy conforming to world standards if it were to join the IMF.

In this connection the delegation was showed an interest in the state of the Tajik economy in general and of the financial system in particular, and in the progress of reforms in various industries.

Government To Introduce Economic Reform Package

LD2108173392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By KHOVAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 21 TASS—An economic reform program has been adopted for the fulfillment in Tajikistan.

"The program was elaborated for a period up to 1996 and covers the most difficult and painful stage of the Tajik economy's transition to the market," First Deputy Tajik Prime Minister Tukhtaboy Gafarov told KHOVAR NEWS AGENCY.

"A special role is attached to the financial, credit-monetary and investment policy. We intend to preserve the rouble in circulation and ensure the economic functioning in the rouble zone in the transitional period.

"Before the end of this year a procedure of currency regulation on republican territory will be approved".

Gafarov said they pay much attention to the development of agriculture. The aim of the agrarian reform is the creation of private property on land, the development of enterprise and competition in the agrarian sector and formation of an environment favourable for foreign investments.

The creation of a sanguine national economy requires considerable structural reorganization, stressed Gafarov. Tajikistan intends to support enterprises manufacturing consumer goods, improve the work of low profit productions and create a system of paid health care.

Alongside education services rendered for free, the republic will develop paid educational establishments.

The Tajik Government views the reform program as a guarantee of its adherence to the economic transformations aimed to establish genuine market relations in the republic, Gafarov stressed in conclusion.

Uzbekistan

Former Vice President Resigns as Deputy

LD2108215492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Former Uzbek Vice President Shukurulla Mirsaidov has declared that he is setting aside his powers as a deputy, the NEGA agency reports from Tashkent. In a letter to his constituents and to the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan, Mirsaidov claimed that, with the connivance of parliament, an authoritarian regime is being established in the republic. Under these conditions, he does not, he said, intend to remain inside a Supreme Soviet that has been turned into a puppet of the government.

Mirsaidov, a former first secretary of the Fergana obkom, as vice president in 1990-1991, became a prominent politician expressing, in the opinion of experts, the interests of a number of influential clans in Fergana. The resulting conflict with President Islam Karimov led, in November 1991, to Mirsaidov's removal from the vice presidential post.

Germany To Assist in Developing EC Cooperation

OW2208131892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1229 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Germany and Uzbekistan have reached a general agreement on the mutual protection of capital investments, which is one of the main results of the visit of the German Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation, Karl-Dieter Spranger, to Tashkent.

During the negotiations the Uzbek and German delegations decided to set up a fund for experts who would be preparing and analyzing major economic programs.

At a press conference after the negotiations Spranger said Uzbekistan would apparently be a good business partner. The German government was ready, he continued, to help Uzbekistan develop its cooperation with the EC.

Speaking about his contacts with the German-speaking community of Tashkent, the minister said he was, on the whole, satisfied with the position of the Germans in Uzbekistan. He was "in no hurry" to invite them to move to Germany, however, since this would cause some problems. At the same time, he stressed the German government's readiness to satisfy to the maximum the needs of Uzbekistan's German-speaking population.

Spranger passed to Uzbek President Islam Karimov an invitation to visit Germany.

Trade Union Signs Agreement With Ukrainian Group

LD2308222692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] RIKA reports that an agreement on cooperation has been signed in Tashkent by the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan [Federatsiya Profsoyuzov Uzbekistana] and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Ukraine [Nezavisimaya Federatsiya Profsoyuzov Ukrainy]. The document says, in particular, that the trade unions of the two states will assist in strengthening bilateral economic ties, and fulfilling mutual deliveries and other agreements, which include the social protection of those who go to live in one or the other republics.

Council of Europe Official Ends Visit

LD2408112392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe, ended her visit to Uzbekistan today. During her visit, she held talks in Tashkent with President Islam Karimov, during which the prospects for expanding contacts between this former Soviet Central Asian republic and the Council of Europe were discussed.

In an interview with RIKA News Agency, Catherine Lalumiere described her meetings and talks in Tashkent as important and useful. The secretary general of the Council of Europe formed her own view, as she put it, on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan. Lalumiere did not go into greater detail about this. A number of international human rights organizations have expressed concern over the observance of civil and human rights in Uzbekistan. Among other things, they cited evidence of persecution of leaders and activists of opposition parties and movements, as well as violations of press freedom.

Armenia

Prime Minister Praises Talks With Gaydar

LD2308060692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0534 GMT 23 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan August 23 TASS—Armenian Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan has praised the results of the talks with Russian acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, held in Moscow on Friday [21 August]. Speaking on Saturday night on republican TV, he pointed out that a number of important agreements had been reached at the Moscow meeting.

Specifically, Russia will continue to deliver black oil and other types of fuel to Armenia irrespective of the accuracy of payments and the situation on the railways, and will open a line of credit for ensuring those deliveries, Arutyunyan continued.

According to Arutyunyan, agreement was also reached in Moscow to begin talks on additional electricity deliveries from Turkey to Armenia. The Russian Government agreed to act as a mediator at those talks. Moreover, he pointed out, this issue will be discussed during the forthcoming visit of Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis to Turkey.

Arutyunyan said as well that treaties had been signed in Moscow on mutual material and technical supply in the arms manufacturing industry and on joint research and design work in that sphere.

According to Arutyunyan, Gaydar will pay a visit to Armenia in September. A package of important documents on the two countries' cooperation in various spheres are expected to be signed during the visit. The documents are now being drafted by experts.

UN Security Council Urged To Meet on Conflict

NC2108180692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Armenia formally called on the United Nations on 20 August for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation that has arisen in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Official Welcomes 'Minsk Group' Initiative

OW2208165492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Karabakh parliament's Commission for Foreign Relations Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan welcomed the plan for settling the conflict in Karabakh, proposed by the CSCE's Minsk group. According to this plan the conflicting parties should terminate combat operations in accordance with the resolutions of the preliminary extraordinary meeting of the Minsk group in Rome on August 5.

The Karabakh leaders believe, said Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan, that Karabakh might cease fire all along its borders with Azerbaijan. He said that the Karabakh authorities will give their final consent after the official reception of the "appeal of the Minsk Group".

Reports on Armenian General's Execution Denied

OW2208162492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [22 August], the Karabakh news agency denied reports circulating in Azerbaijan about the arrest and execution of Armenian General Karo Karoyan. This news agency says that there was no general with such a name either in Armenia or in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Air, Ground Attacks Reported in Nagorno-Karabakh

OW2308141192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Karabakh News Agency (KNA) reports that about midday on Sunday [23 August] an SU-25 assault plane belonging to the Azeri Airforce again dropped several 500-kilo bombs on residential areas in Stepanakert. A few hours earlier a bomb was dropped on a Christian church in the city of Shusha where the morning service was in progress. The air-raids resulted in extensive destruction and loss of life.

Previously, following the bombardment of Karabakh's administrative center 12 corpses were extricated from the wreckage of a 5-storey house. Dozens of injured people, largely women and children, were taken to hospital.

Last night fierce fighting went on outside the villages of Janyatag, Gulyatag, Drmbon and Arutunagomer in Mardakert District of Nagorno-Karabakh. The attacks of Azeri units on these population centers were accompanied by heavy artillery and rocket fire. In rebuffing the offensive Armenian self-defence units put out of action two T-72 tanks and an anti-aircraft installation. At least 20 Azeri fighters were killed. About 10 Armenians were wounded.

According to reports dispatched at 12:00 on Sunday, fighting in and around the villages continued. The Azeri units are particularly fierce in their attacks on the village of Drmbon, a strategically important place on the highway that crosses Mardakert District from east to west.

In the meantime IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent learned from Azerbaijan's defence ministry that as a result of fighting in Agder (Azeri name for Mardakert) District the Azeri forces captured the villages of Manikli, Orta Guneipeia and Drmbon. Currently the Azeri forces are trying to capture the villages of Janyatag and Gulyatag on the border between Agder District and Agdam District of Azerbaijan.

As Azerbaijan's defence ministry says, in the past 24 hours a number of villages in Zangelan District of Azerbaijan and the villages of Sadarak and Jagazir in the Nakhichevan autonomous republic came under fire from Armenian territory.

Saturday evening Azeri self-defence units rebuffed an Armenian offensive launched in the direction of the village of Sur in Jebrail District. An Armenian armoured vehicle was put out of action.

Karabakh Leader on Cultural Autonomy Talks

LD2308044492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] Georgiy Petrosyan, acting chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet, has refuted a report broadcast yesterday on the Ostankino Television Company's "Novosti" newscast that one of the leaders of the republic has expressed a readiness to begin negotiations with Azerbaijan on cultural autonomy.

At the same time, the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet Commission for External Relations has made a statement today in which it says that it is possible to achieve a cease-fire on all its borders with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan

President Elchibey Addresses Nation 23 Aug

NC2408143292 Baku TURAN in English 1100 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 24 August (TURAN)—Yesterday evening, the local TV broadcasted the address of the President Abulfaz Elchibey to the nation. The president summed up the results of the first two months of democratic government in Azerbaijan.

The main thing for those months, as the president outlined it, was that the Azeri leadership managed to lift the threat of breakdown of Azerbaijan as a single state.

The president stressed that the most hard problem for Azerbaijan for the present time, is that the Republic has to carry out a forced war to protect its territorial integrity. The war is going on on our territory, and whatever they may say, no one could accuse Azerbaijan in aggression.

We have to settle three global problems—to create a strong, efficient Army, to put national currency into circulation and to speed up the reforms for market economy. If we managed to do all that, then we may say with confidence that the tendency for creating the independent and strong Azerbaijan is irreversible, said the president.

Soon, we are going to carry out land reforms and denationalization without which the state would never face radical changes in its economy, stressed the president.

The president said that settlement of all these questions would directly depend on interior stability in Azerbaijan. A. Elchibey approved that toughness of the Interior Minister Iskander Gamidov, though the opposition and many from the People's Front sharply criticized the minister for it.

Regarding the international affairs, the president said that Azerbaijan wants to co-operate with all the states all over the world, but only on the level of bilateral relations. He also outlines that Azerbaijan gives priorities to the bilateral relations with Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and Iran.

By the end of the address, the president denied the rumours going around that he is ill and an alcoholic. I'm working for 14-16 hours a day and that is impossible without a good health.

Further on Remarks

LD2408142592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1226 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Elmira Askerova for TASS]

[Text] Baku August 24 TASS—The August events of the past year in Baku did not shatter the resolve of democratic forces to continue their struggle, Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey told republican television on Sunday [23 August].

Events of the past few months have become a new test for the democratic movement of Azerbaijan, when Azerbaijani people, instigated to this by political strife, events on the front and the flooding of Baku by 230,000 civilians fleeing from the battle area, found themselves on the brink of civil war on more than one occasion. One can say with certainty today that "the threat of civil war has passed", and thanks to resolute actions of the new leadership of the Interior Ministry the situation in Baku and the republic was stabilised, Elchibey said.

Elchibey Comments on Relations With Russia

OW2208155592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1511 GMT 22 Aug 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan and Russia will never be adversaries," President Abulfaz Elchibey said in a recent TV address. At present, he went on, experts on both sides were working on principles for two treaties between the two states, one on friendship and cooperation and one on security.

According to Elchibey, he and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed during their meetings in Istanbul and Helsinki that relations between Azerbaijan and Russia should be based on mutual equality and benefit.

"Earlier on," Abulfaz continued, "attempts were made from certain quarters in Moscow to persuade the Russian leadership to take a negative attitude to Azerbaijan, which were based on distorted coverage of events in our region." But lately "there has been increasing clarity in relations between Russia and Azerbaijan." "Unpredictability in our relations is becoming a thing of the past," the President said.

Further on Foreign Minister's Visit to Iran

NC2308063192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] An Azerbaijani delegation headed by Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov visited the Islamic Republic of Iran from 18 to 20 August. The delegation was met at the airport by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan 'Ali Askar Nahavandian, and other officials. The talks held at Iran's Foreign Ministry focused on the need to further strengthen bilateral friendship and cooperation. Gasymov explained the Azerbaijani- Armenian dispute in detail and said that Azerbaijan wants to find a peaceful solution through negotiations to the problems. He also asserted that he is prepared to hold talks with Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian and said that Azerbaijan and Armenia should recognize each other as independent states.

Gasymov introduced Ambassador Refik Resulzade, who has been accredited to Iran, to Foreign Minister Velayati. A banquet was given in honor of the visiting Azerbaijani delegation on the same evening.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the Azerbaijani delegation on 19 August. Gasymov conveyed President Ebulfaz Elchibey's greetings to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and stressed that friendly and fraternal bilateral relations need to be strengthened even more. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani responded by saying that he would welcome it. Minister of Petroleum Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i also received Gasymov and his delegation. The second round of talks between Azerbaijan and Iran was held in the Foreign Ministry on the same day, and several bilateral economic issues were discussed. It was agreed that the establishment of consular relations between Azerbaijan and Iran was essential. The sides decided to sign an agreement establishing consular relations soon, agreeing to open an Azerbaijani Consulate General in Tabriz and an Iranian Consulate General in Nakhichevan. Gasymov and Velayati signed a protocol for cooperation between the respective Foreign Ministries at the end of the talks. The document also calls for mutual contacts between the two sides on international problems or mutual interest.

The deputy speaker of the Iranian Majlis received the Azerbaijani delegation in the afternoon and said that he is prepared to help move bilateral relations along. The official asked the Azerbaijani delegation to convey his invitation to Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Kamberov to visit Iran. The Azerbaijani delegation visited the tomb of Imam Khomeyni and laid a wreath on his grave.

Gasymov and the delegation visited Tabriz on 20 August and were received by renowned clergyman Malaquti. Gasymov and his delegation held talks with a delegation of representatives from Tabriz headed by Asadzadeh. They then visited the tomb of Shakhriyar, who was a renowned Azerbaijani poet, and the martyrs cemetery in the city. They laid bouquets of flowers on the graves of our martyr fellow countrymen.

The delegation returned to Baku yesterday.

Foreign Minister Comments

NC2208132692 Baku TURAN in English 0854 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 21/08/92 (TURAN)—Yesterday, late in the evening, Azeri Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov returned to Azerbaijan after his three-day official visit to Iran. The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan regards this visit as successful.

T. Gasymov and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati signed a protocol on development of relations among the Foreign Ministries of the both states, providing that mutual meetings and consultations for political-economic problems, aiming at working out a common stand on certain questions, should be held no less than twice a year.

The sides have also signed an agreement on co-operation in economic sphere, in particular, on increase in Iranian gas supplies to Azerbaijan up to the volume of 3 milliards of cubic metres a year, on building of the railway, running through the territory of Iran and connecting Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan and also on expansion of co-operation over the Caspian Sea. Iranian side gave its consent in principle to realize the project of the oil and gas pipe-line, running at the bottom of the Caspian Sea from Central Asia and Kazakhstan via Azerbaijan-Iran-Turkey with its outlet to the Mediterranean Sea.

One of the most important aims of the visit was that of specification of the terms of the agreements, signed before. As it is known, Iran and Azerbaijan have signed about 500 agreements for the present. But many of them were not put into force.

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said to the Azeri foreign minister: 'Iran is going to establish relations with Azerbaijan in any sphere.'

Foreign Minister Reports U.S. Note on Turks

NC2408121392 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 12 Aug 92 p 12

[Report by Sema Emiroglu from Ankara: "Reaction to the U.S. Warning"]

[Text] Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov has disclosed that the U.S. Embassy in Baku sent a memorandum to his government informing it that the embassy has received information that Turks are fighting in the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Gasymov said that the memorandum expressed the U.S. concern over the issue. However, he said that "none of the reports in that regard are true."

Gasymov is in Ankara for an official visit, his first after having been appointed Azerbaijan's foreign minister. MILLIYET interviewed him yesterday. Commenting on Armenia's call for a CIS meeting on what it described as "Azerbaijan's occupation," Gasymov asserted: "This is an ordinary political trickery."

Gasymov replied to our questions on efforts in Azerbaijan to establish a national army, saying that he was not satisfied because it is a slow process. Noting that it will be difficult to solve Azerbaijan's problems before an army is established would be difficult, Gasymov asserted: "One of the reasons for the slow pace in this process is the fact that we have begun to establish an army in the battlefields. Another reason is that the remnants of the former regime have impeded our effort."

Recalling that several other Western countries have sent memorandums to his government asking about Turkish-Azerbaijani military cooperation, Gasymov said: "This is all untrue. Such cooperation is out of the question. The Turks do not have a place in the ranks of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces." Noting that Turkey's contribution was limited to advisers and experts, Gasymov said that arms purchases from Turkey is out of the question.

He was asked to explain what Azerbaijan wants from Turkey. His response: "We always feel that Turkey supports us. We want to act together and maintain a joint stand in international meetings in the future. We want Ankara to be a center for our country's relations with the outside world. Our embassy, which will begin its work in September, will make an effort to realize this objective. Turkey will help Azerbaijan convey its views to the outside world."

Gasymov noted that his government wants Turkey to help Azerbaijan establish its national army, saying: "We wish to benefit from Turkey's significant experience in that area. The contribution may be in the form of training military personnel. However, the question of supplying arms during a state of war would be an obstacle to peace. We have opposed the supply of arms to Armenia by Russia."

Gasymov said that Azerbaijan's participation in the Minsk conference, which will convene to try to find a peaceful solution to the Karabakh dispute, depended on the outcome of the Rome preparatory meetings. He said: "Armenia has to withdraw from the areas it has occupied." Gasymov noted that the incidents in Bosnia-Hercegovina have turned the world's attention from the Karabakh dispute.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Receives Turk Delegation

NC2208192092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri
1700 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Kamberov today received an official delegation from Turkey headed by Namik Kemal Zeybek, an adviser to the Turkish prime minister. The sides discussed economic and political issues concerning mutually beneficial principles and the Armenian brigands' attacks on Azerbaijani territory in the mountainous section of Karabakh and the border rayons.

Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Altan Karamanoglu attended the meeting.

Milli-Majlis Decides To Join IMF, IBRD

OW2108143592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1353 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [20 August], Azerbaijan's Milli-Majlis took the decision to join the International Monetary Fund [IMF] and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD]. The Milli-Majlis members noted that Switzerland volunteered to give Azerbaijan a one-time loan of 22.5 million dollars for paying the admission fee. The question of Azerbaijan's admission to international financial organizations will be discussed by the directors of the IMF in Washington on September 22.

Chairman of the Milli-Majlis Isa Kamberov said that for the time being Azerbaijan will not ask these financial organizations for loans.

Russians Detained on 'Espionage Charge'

LD2108173992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1658 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—Russian officers Mikhail Kuznetsov and Valentin Morozov were detained in Kyurdamir on August 12, says a statement of the Azeri Defence Ministry's press service circulated here today by AZERINFORM.

The statement claims the officers were detained "on espionage charge".

Previously, the Russian Defence Ministry said this accusation was "completely ungrounded" and demanded immediate liberation of the Russian servicemen. A statement of the Russian Defence Ministry's press center says the two officers were actually taken hostage. Such actions are "inadmissible in a law-governed civilized state," stressed the statement.

Clashes, Shelling in Nagorno-Karabakh Reported

NC2408150392 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English
1137 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 24 August (ASSA-IRADA)—Last night's shelling of Azeri border settlements from the territory of Armenia brings new victims and destructions. Zangelanskiy, Tavuzskiy, and Kedabekskiy provinces bordering on Armenia and Abdal and Gulably villages of Agdamskiy province adjacent to upland Karabakh were under heavy fire last night. Azeri Army continues clearing Agdere [Mardakertskiy] province of upland Karabakh from Armenian armed formations. Today the fighting is on to the south of Sarsang reservoir. Azeri fighters have accomplished successful operations this night in Khodzhavend [Martuninskiy] province in the south of upland Karabakh. Here the headquarters of Armenian expedition corps, 2 tanks, 1 ATC and a truck with a cannon are reported to be destroyed an ammunition store-blown. [sentence as received]

In the night of August 24 another effort of Armenia to lead a 20-truck-caravan with combat gear along the Lachin corridor to the upland Karabakh was prevented, the Defense Ministry reports.

Explosion Considered 'Act of Sabotage'

LD2108162892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1523 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev for TASS]

[Text] Baku August 21 TASS—The aftermath of the explosion and fire spots at artillery storages of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces were eliminated only this afternoon.

A preliminary version on the reasons for the accident has been made public by the republican Defence Ministry. Sources at the national army staff told AZERINFORM there are grounds to think the explosion was a result of an act of sabotage. Information gained by specialists on the accident site is the proof to it, believe the military.

A state commission that includes representatives of the military procurator's office, the Azerbaijanii Interior and Defence Ministries is to confirm or reject this version.

Georgia

Reportage Continues Coverage of Abkhazia Events

Troops 'Completely Removed' From Sukhumi

OW2108183892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the press center of the Georgian Internal Affairs Ministry, parts of the Georgian Army were completely removed from Sukhumi in the second half of the day Friday [21 August]. The situation in and around the capital of Abkhazia is peaceful. 800 tons of flour have been delivered from Poty to the city. The water supply has been restored, and food stores and markets have reopened. On Saturday [22 August] the city transportation system will begin running, and on Monday, August 24, industrial enterprises will resume work.

Along with this, the press center of the Georgian Internal Affairs Ministry reports that on the morning of August 21 in the railway span between Ochamchira and Ochigvara, unidentified persons destroyed the railway bridge across the Inguri River. This thwarted plans to resume movement to the Sukhumi side on Friday.

Commandant:'Signs of Stabilization'

LD2208161392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1517 GMT 22 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi August 22 TASS—There are first signs of stabilization in Sukhumi, Sukhumi Commandant General Georgiy Gulua told ITAR-TASS.

In his words, bread is baked in the town and flour was delivered from Poti on Friday [21 August] to be sent to all Abkhazian regions. Measures have been taken to resume normal functioning of town transport.

Medicines were delivered on helicopter to Gagra from Tbilisi. Part of them have been given to the Gudauta regional hospital on the Abkhazian side consent.

The Sukhumi Airport has been open for two days, passenger flights to Moscow and Tbilisi are available again. Possibilities to make passenger flights to other cities and CIS countries are being studied. The safety of flights is ensured by airport services and units of the Georgian governmental troops that control the situation in the Sukhumi Airport area.

The town commandant said several people were arrested last night and this morning for a pillage attempt and shop-lifting.

The Abkhazian side still says it is categorically against any possibility of negotiations before troops of the Georgian State Council are withdrawn from Abkhazian territory.

Russian, Ukrainian Ships Fired On

LD2108223192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] NEGA News Agency reports today that the living quarters of Russian airborne troops in Sukhumi have been fired on by a rocket propelled grenade launcher and automatic guns. One person has been wounded. According to the same report, Abkhaz detachments in Pitsunda fired from shore on Russian and Ukrainian ships delivering Red Cross humanitarian aid.

Troops Said Preparing Attack

LD2208085592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0720 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] We have just received a phone call from Abkhazia in the Mayak Panorama studio. Vladimir Mezentsev, our correspondent in western Georgia, is on the line. Please let us have your latest news.

[Mezentsev] All the sea, air, and land links between Batumi and Sukhumi have been cut off. Telephone communications are down. Yesterday, however, a miracle took place. Representatives of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet Press Center who are in Gudauta telephoned me and described the situation that took shape in the neighboring autonomous republic.

Plundering of apartments and houses is taking place in Sukhumi on a massive scale. Hostages are being seized for ransom. The Experimental Pathology Institute, the TV center, the Abkhaz Scientific and Research Language, Literature and History Institute, educational establishments, and medical institutes have been ransacked.

According to Ardzhinba's supporters, Abkhazia's property is being taken away to Tbilisi. Private and public vehicles have been stolen. The Abkhaz Supreme Soviet has demanded of Shevardnadze and Sigua that a commission be set up to evaluate the losses and to see that damage is compensated for without delay.

Ardzhinba himself is in the village of Yuzhnyy in Gudautskiy Rayon, protected by 1,500 members of the local militia. The chairman of the Supreme Soviet categorically rejected the Georgian State Council's proposal to hold talks for as long as the government troops are in Abkhazia.

The Georgian side, on the contrary, is ready to withdraw the military formations on condition that Ardzhinba resigns.

Moreover, in order to avert more bloodshed Shevardnadze offered to resign simultaneously with Ardzhinba, but the Abkhaz leader rejected this proposal, too.

The situation in Abkhazia continues to worsen. According to information I received from military circles, Georgian Government troops shelled the Abkhaz village of Pechori with Alazan rockets overnight. The Russian Army officers who gave me this information counted more than 80 shots. The press service of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet also confirmed these reports. According to the data of the Abkhaz militia, the Georgian troops are preparing for an intensive, large-scale attack on Gudauta, where Ardzhinba's main forces are concentrated. Government paratroops have landed from two harbor patrol craft in the region of Leselidze. The situation is getting more and more complex by the hour.

In half an hour I will try to go on the air again, but communications are down, to all intents and purposes.

'Weapons of Mass Destruction' Reported

LD2208175492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Georgian State Council today effectively admitted that the opportunities for a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia have been exhausted. Although Shevardnadze has commented that there has been an evident tendency toward a reduction of tension and that what needs to be done now is to provide the population with food, it is not wholly clear how tension can be reduced in a region of hungry and armed people.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent K. Bzhaniya] The armed groups of Tengiz Kitovani and Dzhaba Ioseliani are continuing their assault against Gadautskiy Rayon. The State Council Guards, meanwhile, are still in Sukhumi, even though the military commandant's office asserts that the guards have been withdrawn and that only the police remain in the town. Civilian facilities in Eshera have been destroyed by shell fire; the Abkhazians have been keeping up their defense of the village for five days now. The positions of the Abkhazian volunteer forces were under artillery fire all night. On 20 August, combatants shelled a woman who had gone out with her children to find bread. [passage omitted]

Weapons of mass destruction are being used against the civilian population. The Abkhazian volunteers are continuing to wage a partisan war. [end recording]

Shevardnadze: Crime Prohibits Withdrawal

LD2208101492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0937 GMT 22 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 22 Aug—The Georgian State Council has actually admitted today at a meeting that the possibilities of a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Abkhazia have been almost completely exhausted. State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze said at the meeting that the Abkhaz side categorically refuses to begin talks until all Georgian armed formations are completely withdrawn from the territory of the autonomous republic.

However, according to the State Council chairman, this cannot be done because the crime situation in Abkhazia makes it impossible to leave Georgia's vitally important transport routes and other strategic places without protection. He revealed that groups of armed volunteers are continuing to penetrate into Abkhazia from the north.

Eduard Shevardnadze proposed that an attempt should be made to try to find a way to settle the conflict at a joint meeting of the leaders of the Caucasian republics.

State Council Threatens To Remove Leaders

OW2208124392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1229 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Today the Georgian State Council has again demanded that the Abkhazian leadership immediately return to Sukhumi, capital of the autonomous republic, from Gudauta and resume work, in particular calling a parliament session. "Unless the present Abkhazian leadership does so we shall have to take other measures, possibly appointing a new provisional leadership for Abkhazia," State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze said.

He added that, following the decisions on measures to normalize the situation in Abkhazia, most of the Georgian forces had been withdrawn from Sukhumi. There were just a few Georgian details left in the city to avert any trouble and help the police and interior troops maintain law and order.

Shevardnadze stressed that, until there were guarantees for the normal work of the railways and other forms of transport in Abkhazia, the withdrawal of Georgian forces from the republic was out of the question for otherwise Georgia would remain isolated from the outside world.

He said that, as a result of the negotiations on the release of servicemen taken prisoner during the armed clashes, 53 Abkhazians, including 30 guards, and about the same number of Georgians had been released yesterday.

Mountain Peoples Urge 'Volunteers' To Fight

LD2208142192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] According to the NEGA agency, Musa Shanibov, President of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus, and Yusup Syslambekov, chairman of the Confederation's parliament, made it incumbent in a decree that has been promulgated on all the Confederation's regional centers to ensure the transfer of volunteers to the territory of Abkhazia to give armed resistance to the Georgian troops.

The decree instructs the Confederation's armed formations to force their way onto the territory of Abkhazia by any means and to engage in hostilities if opposed by any forces. The decree declares the city of Tbilisi a disaster area. The order sanctions the use of all methods, including acts of terrorism. All persons of Georgian nationality on the Confederation's territory are declared to be hostages.

Groups Reportedly Head for Abkhazia

LD2208143192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 0600 GMT on 22 August carries a 3-minute report by correspondent Pavel Guskov in Stavropol on the situation in Abkhazia.

He reports that on the evening of 21 August, several busloads of volunteers who said they were going to Abkhazia on a peacemaking mission passed through Stavropolskiy Kray. Guskov explains: "They were not armed and were accompanied by a member of the parliament of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples and there was no grounds for preventing them from doing so. During the same night another large group of about 200-300 people followed via the mountain passes. I cannot name the precise points here since I have promised not to divulge the information. This group was armed." He continues: "These people said that they did not violate either Russia's sovereignty or the Stavropol administration's promise not to allow such groups through."

Guskov notes that at the recent meeting in Cherkessk a statement made by the international organization of Chechens was read out in which the appeal was made not just to the mountain people but the Cossacks of southern Russia to offer similar help to Abkhazia. There are indications, Guskov says, that the Cossacks are already considering such actions. "A curious report has been published in one of the latest issues of the popular Nalchik newspaper SEVERNYY KAVKAZ [NORTH CAUCASUS]. This is a very popular newspaper, not only here but in Moscow as well, and is generally recognized as well-informed about the situation in the north Caucasus."

Guskov continues: "The report is entitled: 'Dzhokhar Dudayev Does Not Intend To Be Removed.' The newspaper says that Dudayev, commenting on Russian television's 12 August report on the possibility of his removal, has stated that he does not intend to leave his post as president of Checheniya, except perhaps for one reason. According to the newspaper, Dudayev has said he has received numerous appeals from Russian citizens urging him to propose his candidacy for the post of president of Russia, and he is prepared to consider this request."

Guskov concludes: "At this moment another group of people is setting off for Abkhazia from the border between Kabardino-Balkariya and Stavropolskiy Kray. This group is also unarmed and also claims that it is going on a peacemaking mission."

State Council Discusses Developments

LD2208164992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1323 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Telephone report from Georgia by IPRINDA correspondent Zurab Dzhvali]

[Text] A regular meeting of the Georgian State Council took place in Tbilisi today. Eduard Shevardnadze reported on the latest developments in Abkhazia. He revealed that on 21 August a group of Russian deputies, who are visiting Abkhazia and expressed the desire to assist in resolving the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, arrived in Tbilisi. After talks with the chairman of the State Council they went back to Abkhazia.

It has become known that Abkhazian Parliament head Ardzinba put through a call to Eduard Shevardnadze on 21 August, demanding that Georgian forces be withdrawn from Sukhumi. The chairman of the State Council gave a negative answer to this demand and stated that until the situation becomes clearer the forces will continue to be deployed in the region. The question of a meeting between Ardzinba and Shevardnadze in one of the towns in Northern Caucasus is being discussed.

It is reported that Shevardnadze had a telephone conversation with Russian Vice President Rutskoy, who revealed that on the border with Georgia the Russian authorities have detained 150 volunteers from the Northern Caucasus who have expressed a wish to render armed assistance to the Abkhazian people. At the same meeting of the State Council it was decided to appeal to the United Nations to send observers to assess the situation that has evolved in the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic. The situation in Sukhumi is gradually stabilizing.

Reinforced police detachments are doing everything possible to curb the activities of criminal elements. Sukhumi Police Commandant Gulua has revealed that four groups of robbers, mostly made up of locals, were detained overnight.

Mountain Peoples Take Up Positions

LD2408144692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1311 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Zurab Dvali, a correspondent for the independent information agency IPRINDA, reports to us by telephone from Tbilisi:

[Dvali] The situation in Abkhazia remains explosive. As learned, the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus declared all Georgians living on its territory as hostages, following which, on the evening of 23 August, two Russian Army military helicopters shipped 80 Georgians out of the town of Gudauta, Abkhazia, mostly women and children. The evacuees were sent to the western Georgian town of Khobi, among other places.

Georgian police subunits reinforced control throughout the Georgian territory, especially in the capital, Tbilisi, in order to prevent terrorist acts and diversions.

All city entrances and exits are under control. Bus and railway stations, the airport, and other important facilities are under intensified police supervision. We managed to get through by telephone to the Abkhaz Interior Minister Givi Lominadze, who said that the situation in Sukhumi remains relatively calm today. Strengthened police and law enforcement subunits are fighting various criminal elements.

However, the outskirts of the town of Gagra are in a critical situation. According to preliminary reports, a large group of armed volunteers from the North Caucasus have taken up positions at the entrance of the town, intending to take the town by force jointly with Abkhaz armed groupings.

In an interview to an IPRINDA correspondent, the Gagra commandant said that Georgian Government formations stationed in the city are prepared to do their utmost the stop the men of Confederation of Mountain Peoples and armed Abkhazians from entering the town. The commandant inferred that these formations are intending to seize Gagra in order to turn this part of Abkhazia into a fortified military bridgehead and then to subsequently deploy combat operations there.

This is the update, though new developments could happen any minute.

Official Says Troops Withdrawn

LD2308092492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] The Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples do not have real power to interfere in the conflict on Abkhazia's side. This was stated by Tamaz Nadareyshvili, first deputy chairman of the Abkhaz parliament, when he spoke on Georgian television late last night. He confirmed that the Georgian Government troops had withdrawn from Sukhumi. About 500 policemen are keeping the situation in the town under control.

Nadareyshvili blamed parliament chairman Vladislav Ardzinba, himself and two more of his deputies for today's crisis in Abkhazia. After all that has happened we should resign, he said. Nadareyshvili proposed to hold elections for a new Abkhaz parliament on 11 October, on the same day as the elections to the Georgian parliament.

Council Views Partial Mobilization, Curfew

LD2308150392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1301 GMT 23 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 23 Aug—Today the Georgian State Council introduced heightened readiness for a partial mobilization. This decision was adopted at the extraordinary session at which measures to respond to the decree by the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus were discussed. In essence, this decree proclaimed a military campaign against Georgia.

Reservists in all regions along the perimeter of the republic's state border may be subject to mobilization.

At the same time the State Council discussed the possibility of introducing a regime of special citizen conduct in the Georgian capital, restricting their free movement around the city between 2300 and 0700. This measure might be undertaken against possible terrorist acts and diversions on the part of confederation paramilitaries, who have declared Tbilisi "a disaster zone."

These decisions will be put into force in the event that the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus commences open military actions against Georgia.

Military Stays Until Rail 'Normal'

LD2308183792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] No single Georgian servicemen will leave Abkhazia until normal rail operations are guaranteed, Eduard Shevardnadze stated at an extraordinary sitting of the State Council of Georgia today. He characterized the call by the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus for armed intervention in the internal affairs of Georgia a misanthropic document. In Shevardnadze's words that demarche is an extremely dangerous symptom not just for Georgia but also for the contiguous states.

Shevardnadze on Possible Mobilization

LD2308193692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Exclusive 'Itogi' interview with Georgia State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nana Gongadze on 23 August; place not given]

[Text] [Gongadze] The decision to use force—was it sanctioned by you, or did it follow Kitovani's initiative?

[Shevardnadze] You shouldn't present it like that—that this was the initiative of Shevardnadze or Kitovani. After all, we have a unified leadership here. What was at issue, what use of force? You know what was happening on the railways. Therefore, an understanding was reached—both with the Abkhaz leadership and with all the leaders of individual regions—that these forces would accompany the trains.

[Gongadze] There is a view that this destabilization suits you, that foreseeing your defeat in the elections you are trying to use this situation to delay the elections for an indefinite period. Is that so?

[Shevardnadze] My main task, as a politician—you know what my return was linked with—is to bring the elections a legitimate leadership, a legitimate government, and a legitimate parliament.

[Gongadze] Incidentally, the deadline for nominating candidates expires today. Will you stand in the elections? Have you decided?

[Shevardnadze] I'm in a difficult situation. I don't rule out that perhaps I won't take part—perhaps. The one principle is that I feel it is necessary, essential for me to take part, but in what form—let the State Council decide.

[Gongadze] How did you react to the statement of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples?

[Shevardnadze] I've read a lot of documents, all kinds of ultimatums from terrorist organizations, but I've never read anything like this before. What are we talking about? Correctly or incorrectly, all the same we are acting here within the framework of a sovereign independent state. I don't rule out that we could declare a general mobilization, that if they want to start a war, so to speak,—well, what can you do?

[Gongadze] That is, this statement can be seen as a call for military action?

[Shevardnadze] I think that this is, in principle, a provocative step, because I know that's not the way the leaders of these republics think. My principle is that we're ready to meet them and discuss the situation.

State Council Announces Local Mobilization

LD2308212892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The latest news from Abkhazia: The Georgian State Council has announced a local mobilization in response to the decision by the Confederation of the Caucasian Mountain Peoples to send the home guard into Abkhazia. [passage omitted]

Finally, a quote from the head of the Russian delegation in the conflict zone—Sergey Baburin has stated that he is not sure that Abkhazia is part of Georgia.

New Troop Commander Appointed

LD2408094192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 24 TASS—The Presidium of the Georgian State Council has appointed Georgiy Karkarashvili, formerly captain of the Soviet Army and now colonel of the Georgian National Guard, the commander of the government troops deployed in Abkhazia.

Karkarashvili, 25, used to be the commander-in-chief of the National Guards and directed combat operations in South Ossetia and western Georgia, but resigned because of differences with politicians.

Prior to this appointment, military actions in Abkhazia were directed by Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani, a State Council member, a painter in civil life.

Security Increased at State Council

LD2408103492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0918 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 24 Aug—Security measures and identification checks were stepped up today at the Georgian State Council building. The aim of this is to prevent possible terrorist acts by fighters of the Caucasus Confederation of Mountain Peoples. Bags and briefcases of everyone entering the building are checked for weapons with metal detectors, and steel bars have been installed in the windows on the lower floors.

Visitors to State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze are checked for metal objects by passing through a security frame similar to those found in airports. The detector has been installed outside Shevardnadze's office. Meanwhile, Shevardnadze's bodyguards were recently instructed by American secret service professionals, who are in Tbilisi specifically to share their considerable experience.

All these unprecedented measures are due to a very real threat to the safety of the State Council's members, especially due to the previously reported decree by the Confederation of Mountain Peoples declaring Tbilisi a "disaster zone" and allowing any kind of action, including terrorism.

Explosion Near Defense Minister's House

LD2408105492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1024 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 24 Aug—A strong blast occurred today at 1100 at a house on Kekelizde Street in the privileged Vake Rayon, not far from the house where Tengiz Kitovani, member of the State Council Presidium and Georgian defense minister, lives. The explosion scattered to the winds a vacant apartment on the ninth floor of the building. There are no casualties.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the rayon police station that it is thought that the blast was the result of an inaccurate shot from a handheld antitank "Mukha" grenade launcher. According to one version, this is a terrorist act which could have been carried out by supporters of former President Gamsakhurdia guerrillas from the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus.